

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

2 **14 October 2020**

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4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on October
7 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

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9	Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
10	Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
11	Pierce Freelon (Member)	City of Durham
12	Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
13	Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
14	Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
15	Renée Price (Member)	Orange County
16	Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
17	Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
18	Javiera Caballero (Alternate)	City of Durham
19	Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
20	Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
21	Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
22	Mike Fox (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
23		
24	Joey Hopkins	NCDOT Division 5
25	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
26	Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 5
27	Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
28	Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
29	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
30	Julie Bogle	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
31	John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Operations
32	Joe Geigle	FHWA
33	Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
34	Sean Egan	City of Durham
35	Tasha Johnson	City of Durham
36	Bill Judge	City of Durham
37	Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
38	Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
39	Jomar Pastorelle	Chapel Hill Planning
40	Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
41	Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
42	Scott Whiteman	Durham County
43	Nish Trivedi	Orange County
44	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
45	Meg Scully	GoTriangle
46	Jay Heikes	GoTriangle

47	Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
48	Cha'ssem Anderson	University of North Carolina
49		
50	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
51	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
52	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
53	Jaehoon Kim	DCHC MPO
54	Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
55	Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
56	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
57	Casey Chae	DCHC MPO
58	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
59	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
60	Joelle Davis	DCHC MPO
61		
62	Alex Bell	Renaissance Planning
63	Kevin Lacy	NCDOT
64	Jody Lewis	VHB
65	Rachel Gaylord-Miles	WSP
66		
67	Michael Crook	Home Depot
68	Bryan Fox	Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce
69		
70	Earl Lewellyn	Kimley-Horn
71	Katie Loovis	Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro
72	Joe Milazzo	Regional Transportation Alliance
73	Phil Post	Resident
74	Natalie Ridout	Regional Transportation Business Alliance
75	Beth Trahos	Nelson-Mullins
76	Mike Waldroup	Resident

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80 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

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83 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call of MPO Board Member

84 and Alternates was performed by Aaron Cain. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of

85 the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated above.

86 Chair Wendy Jacobs introduced Valerie Jordan as a new North Carolina Board of Transportation

87 representative and Pierce Freelon as the City of Durham Member. Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that

88 Lydia Lavelle was unable to attend today's meeting. Chair Wendy Jacobs added that Charlie Reece and

89 Pam Hemminger have requested to leave the meeting early. Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that Ellen
90 Beckmann has accepted the position as the Transportation Manager with Durham County.

91 **PRELIMINARIES:**

92 **2. Ethics Reminder**

93 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
94 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
95 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
96 the MPO Board Members.

97 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

98 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

99 **4. Public Comments**

100 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the public comments related to the 15-501 Corridor Study will
101 be addressed at the corresponding agenda item.

102 **5. Directives to Staff**

103 Aaron Cain stated that there were no additional directives to staff.

104 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

105 **6. August 12, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

106 **7. September 9, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

107 Michael Parker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Renée Price seconded the
108 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

109 **ACTION ITEMS:**

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111 **8. US 15-501 Corridor Study**

112 **Andy Henry, LPA staff**

113 Chair Wendy Jacobs and Andy Henry discussed that a public hearing is scheduled for today's
114 meeting. Andy Henry continued that, when the public comment period ends on October 15, he will

115 compile and send the public comments to the MPO Board. Andy Henry added that the MPO Board is
116 scheduled to vote for approval of the study at the MPO Board Meeting on November 4.

117 Chair Wendy Jacobs opened the public hearing. Mike Waldroup stated his concerns about
118 the proposed design, specifically for areas around Patterson Place. Mike Waldroup presented his
119 alternate design for the area. Beth Trahos stated that the proposed design would negatively impact
120 the New Hope Commons shopping center by limiting access. Beth Trahos continued that there are
121 elements discussed from an earlier design plan that were not included in the final design. Earl
122 Lewellyn stated that the proposed design will make retail development in the New Hope Commons
123 area less attractive. Earl Lewellyn requested design commitments from the MPO Board concerning
124 adding connections to Eastowne and increased connectivity. Michael Crook stated that he opposed
125 the design because it will limit mobility by increasing traffic speeds. Michael Crook added that there
126 are safety concerns for the area around Home Depot due to the complicated design plan.

127 Natalie Ridout stated that she endorsed the recommended corridor concept due to enhanced
128 mobility. Bryan Fox stated he endorsed the proposed design due to its enhanced transit network.
129 Bryan Fox added that there are opportunities for improvement that will be included in his submitted
130 comments. Katie Loovis stated that she supported the proposed design, but there are areas for
131 improvement that will be included in her submitted comments to the MPO Board.

132 Phil Post stated that some of the proposed changes that he has suggested have been
133 included in the design, but that more changes are needed. Phil Post requested to work further with
134 MPO staff on future drafts. Joe Milazzo stated that the regional business community supports the
135 plan and continued conversations about ways to improve it. Chair Wendy Jacobs read Heidi Perry's
136 comments, which include critiques of designing 15-501 as a highway, the concept of superstreets,
137 and the prioritization of automobiles over other modes of transportation. With no other comments
138 from the public, Chair Wendy Jacobs closed the public hearing.

139 Pam Hemminger and Michael Parker discussed the proposed plans for segment one and two
140 of the corridor study, noting that they appear to prioritize automobile facilities over those for transit
141 and pedestrians. Pam Hemminger stated that she has concerns about super streets due to
142 pedestrian access. Damon Seils requested that the 15-501 design plan explicitly address the MPO
143 Board's Goals and Objectives, including reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Renée Price
144 requested that the design have a greater emphasis on bicyclists and pedestrians near the residential
145 areas of Patterson Place, New Hope Commons, and Eastowne.

146 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that Orange and Durham counties are updating their transit plans,
147 and they should be reflected in the 15-501 design plans. Chair Wendy Jacobs recommended that
148 staff address the major issues that were presented in the public comment period and the public
149 hearing at the MPO Board meeting on November 4.

150 **9. Road Improvement Requirements Adjacent to Schools**

151 **Kevin Lacy, NCDOT**

152 **Bill Judge, City of Durham**

153 Kevin Lacy stated that road improvements adjacent to new, relocating, or expanding schools
154 are now the responsibility of North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). Kevin Lacy
155 stated that the 2017 law requires that schools coordinate with NCDOT. Kevin Lacy stated that schools
156 can hire independent engineers. Kevin Lacy continued that the 2017 law affords NCDOT the power to
157 determine the required road improvements.

158 Kevin Lacy stated that pre-schools, homeschools, and post-secondary education buildings are
159 not included in the law. Kevin Lacy added that NCDOT may provide assistance in determining safety
160 guidelines for structures that are not part of the school directly, such as sport complexes.

161 Kevin Lacy noted that schools would be treated differently than other developments. Kevin
162 Lacy stated that certain facilities, such as turn lanes, would need to be reviewed in relationship to
163 other new developments and travel patterns. Kevin Lacy stated that NCDOT will review the Traffic

164 Impact Analysis (TIA) for each project. Kevin Lacy noted that schools will be notified of
165 determinations made by NCDOT. Kevin Lacy added that curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and bike lanes are
166 considered for reimbursement on a case by case basis.

167 Vice Chair Jenn Weaver and Kevin Lacy discussed the impact of the Complete Streets policy
168 on road improvements adjacent to schools. Kevin Lacy added that bike and pedestrian facilities may
169 not be incorporated in rural areas if an insufficient number of students walk or bike to school. Vice
170 Chair Jenn Weaver and Kevin Lacy discussed that bicycle and pedestrian facilities can later be added
171 based on determinations made by NCDOT. Renée Price and Kevin Lacy discussed the role of counties
172 can be made part of the process as a third party, but the main stakeholders are generally either the
173 school or the municipality.

174 Charlie Reece asked about how NCDOT determines which facilities are decided for road
175 improvements adjacent to schools. Kevin Lacy responded that the decisions made by NCDOT are
176 informed by conditions near the school and safety requirements would be incorporated, however,
177 operational issues are informed by traffic and budget availability. Kevin continued that local or
178 private money can be added to the budget for additional work. Kevin Lacy added that local
179 stakeholders can appeal the decisions made by NCDOT, if necessary.

180 Vice Chair Jenn Weaver asked how rural schools are later able to access bicycle and
181 pedestrian facilities that may have not been implemented as part of the road improvement process.
182 Kevin Lacy responded that local stakeholders will need to follow up with DOT representatives who
183 will have documentation of the original road improvement process.

184 Chair Wendy Jacobs asked about how bike and pedestrian improvements are assessed
185 outside of the TIA process. Kevin Lacy responded that the school analysis includes the number of
186 students in each school and how many per school are pedestrian and bicyclists.

187 This item is informational and discussion purposes only, and no action is required.

188 **10. Triangle Region ITS Strategic Deployment Plan Update**

189 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

190 **Jody Lewis, VHB**

191 **Casey Chae, LPA Staff**

192 Felix Nwoko stated that DCHC MPO is partnering with Capital Area Metropolitan Planning
193 Organization (CAMPO) to update the Triangle Region Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Strategic
194 Deployment Plan for the next ten years. Felix Nwoko stated that the last ITS Plan was developed in
195 2010. Jody Lewis stated that the purpose of the ITS Plan is to provide a framework to deploy ITS
196 elements on the transportation system for the near, mid, and long terms. Jody Lewis continued that,
197 due to the NCDOT budget shortfalls, some specifications identified in the ITS Plan may need to be
198 shifted. Jody Lewis stated that the objectives of this study are to support Vision Zero, support
199 reliability across an integrated transportation network, enhance network mobility, improve
200 multimodal connectivity and equitable access, improve and manage assets, and support economic
201 vitality. Jody Lewis stated that the major study efforts include updating the regional ITS architecture,
202 assessing the current ITS deployment and identifying gaps between the current condition and the
203 goals, assessing the current state of the practice and merging technologies, and identifying
204 deployment and recommendations. Jody Lewis stated that stakeholders included, DCHC MPO,
205 CAMPO, local municipalities, NCDOT, NC Turnpike Authority, and GoTriangle. Jody Lewis listed
206 examples of current ITS deployments within the Triangle Region. Jody Lewis stated that the planning
207 team conducted a literature review. Jody Lewis added that a major source of new technology will
208 come in the form of autonomous and connected vehicles.

209 Jody Lewis stated that there are 42 action items identified in the ITS Study. Jody Lewis added
210 that DCHC MPO is working with CAMPO to establish how municipalities can work together to secure
211 advancements in infrastructure.

212 Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how the ITS Plan will be implemented. Felix Nwoko responded
213 that it will go through the Strategic Prioritization Office (SPOT) process for implementation. Felix

214 Nwoko continued that MPO staff will work with local municipalities and agencies to ensure that the
215 recommendations outlined in the ITS Plan will be implemented.

216 Damon Seils made a motion to release the ITS Deployment Plan for public comment. Javiera
217 Caballero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

218 **11. Mobility Report Card 2019**

219 **Felix Nwoko, LPA staff**

220 **Alex Bell, Renaissance Planning**

221 **Casey Chae and Jaehoon Kim, LPA staff**

222 Felix Nwoko stated that 2019 Mobility Report Card (MRC) looks at transportation performance
223 and is an update to the 2014 MRC. Felix Nwoko and Alex Bell discussed that the MRC is federally
224 mandated as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Felix Nwoko added that the
225 MRC focuses on storytelling to make it more accessible to residents. Alex Bell noted that the print
226 version of the MRC is slimmer than in previous years, and the online dashboard makes information more
227 searchable and straightforward.

228 Alex Bell stated that the MRC is a data intensive process and is intended to monitor travel
229 trends. Alex Bell continued that the MRC is intended to be multimodal in scope and looks at various
230 elements of transportation system. Alex Bell noted that each of the 12 chapters highlights key findings.
231 Alex Bell stated that the MRC incorporates the development of performance measures. Alex Bell stated
232 that an additional goal is to make the MRC easier to update as new data becomes available.

233 Alex Bell presented the 12 chapters of the MRC: Vehicle Activity and Arterial Level of Service;
234 Intersection Peak Hour Level of Service; Vehicle Travel Time; Vehicle Safety; Pedestrian Facilities;
235 Pedestrian Activity; Bicycle Facilities; Bicycle Activity; Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety; Transit Service;
236 Transit Ridership; and Multimodal Mobility and Throughput.

237 Javiera Caballero requested that MPO staff review the information on Holloway Street and
238 Miami Boulevard for accuracy. Javiera Caballero and Felix Nwoko discussed additional uses for the MRC.
239 Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that the MRC be coordinated with future reports and studies. Felix

240 Nwoko added that the MRC is used for various planning activities and is federally required. Javiera
241 Caballero suggested that the MRC be used to help the DCHC MPO achieve its goals and objectives as
242 stated in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Michael Parker suggested that implications and
243 suggestions be included in the report to assist in planning for regional transportation.

244 Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that a reader-friendly version of the report be available for
245 consumption. Felix Nwoko responded that information from the MRC will be integrated on the updated
246 DCHC MPO website using a dashboard feature that will include quick takeaways and in-depth analysis.
247 Felix Nwoko added that MPO staff will ensure that project managers will incorporate the MRC for use in
248 future projects. Felix Nwoko continued that MPO staff is working to streamline the data gathering
249 process so the MRC can be more easily updated.

250 Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how the MRC will capture specific facilities such as multiuse paths in
251 further reports. Felix Nwoko responded that data for specific bike/ped facilities will be included in
252 future updates of the MRC. Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested the next iteration of the MRC better explain
253 the cause of mobility improvements and how they are funded.

254 Michael Parker made a motion to approve the 2019 Mobility Report Card. Renée Price seconded
255 the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

256 **12. State of the Region Report**

257 **Felix Nwoko, LPA staff**

258 **Alex Bell, Renaissance Planning**

259 Felix Nwoko stated that the State of the Region Report reviews the forces that shape
260 development in the region and how they impact travel. Felix Nwoko added that the report gathers land-
261 use and socioeconomic metrics and determines how those factors impacts travel movement. Felix
262 Nwoko continued that the State of the Region Report compares DCHC MPO to several other cities to
263 better understand transit, multimodal facilities, and VMT. Alex Bell added that the report reviews how

264 the transportation system supports MPO's goals of providing a greater quality of life, economic viability,
265 and promoting environmental sustainability through transportation investments.

266 Alex Bell stated that the first chapter, Demographics, looks at changes in density. Alex Bell
267 continued that this chapter also looks at demographics based on education, race, ethnicity, and age and
268 how those differences may lead to disparities in access to transportation. Alex Bell stated that the
269 second chapter, Economy, describes that the educational sector has grown, but the healthcare sector
270 has declined. Alex Bell stated that report includes information about affordable housing. Alex Bell stated
271 that the report highlights how income relates to employment opportunities and travel access. Alex Bell
272 stated that the report shows travel times based on block groups.

273 Alex Bell stated that the third chapter, Commuter Flows, reviews the primary destination of
274 commuters based on sub-groups. Alex Bell noted that much of the commuting occurs between Durham
275 and Wake counties. Alex Bell noted that information in the fourth and fifth chapters, Mobility and
276 Safety, was presented during the previous agenda item.

277 Chair Wendy Jacobs and Alex Bell discussed that the State of the Region Report is conducted
278 concurrently with the Mobility Report Card (MRC). Chair Wendy Jacobs and Alex Bell noted that much of
279 the data in the report was gathered before the COVID-19 pandemic and current changes to traffic
280 patterns may have lasting impacts. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how this information would be
281 incorporated for future planning. Aaron Cain responded that MPO staff will ensure this information is
282 incorporated into the updated Orange and Durham transit plans. Javiera Caballero noted that it would
283 be important for all reports to include how the document will align with current planning and actionable
284 outcomes.

285 Michael Parker requested that future State of the Region reports be performed in conjunction
286 with local travel partners, including CAMPO. Felix Nwoko responded that there have been discussions
287 about collaborating with CAMPO on future versions of the State of the Region Report.

288 Chair Wendy Jacobs and Alex Bell discussed that Treyburn Industrial Park was not listed in the
289 report as a job center.

290 Michael Parker made a motion to release the State of the Region report for a 21-day public
291 comment. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

292 **13. Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) and Transportation Alternative**
293 **Program (TAP) Funding Distribution for FY22**
294 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

295 Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO Board approved the formula and policy to distribute Surface
296 Transportation Block Grant- Direct Attributable (STBGDA) and Transportation Alternatives Program
297 (TAP) funds to subrecipients for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 in October 2015. Felix Nwoko continued
298 that the actual STBGDA and TAP allocation to the DCHC MPO would be entered into the formula prior to
299 the development of the next year's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Felix Nwoko noted that the
300 most recent certified National Transit Database (NTD) data would also be entered into the formula,
301 which would be used in calculating the distribution to transit agencies.

302 Renée Price made a motion to approve the FY22 distribution of STBG-DA and TAP funds. Vice
303 Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

304 **14. Alternate Scoring Criteria and SPOT 6 Update**
305 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

306 Anne Phillips stated that, according to the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law,
307 alternate scoring criteria can be used for highway projects for SPOT 6.0, if there is concurrence among
308 Divisions and their respective MPOs and RPOs. Anne Phillips continued that Division 5 and its respective
309 MPOs and RPOs support moving all points from the Freight and Accessibility and Connectivity categories
310 to the Safety category. Anne Phillips noted that Divisions 7 and its respective MPOs and RPOs are
311 currently discussing whether to move all points from the Freight category to the Safety category. She
312 added that Division 8 would be using default weights because there was no concurrence. Anne Phillips
313 stated that MPO staff supports the proposed alternate criteria for all three Divisions. Chair Wendy

314 Jacobs asked how the strategic decision was made. Anne Phillips responded that the projects would
 315 score better as a result and the same decision was made for SPOT 5.

316 Anne Phillips stated that P6 Ongoing Prioritization Committee met in September to review the
 317 SPOT process in light of NCDOT's financial situation. Anne Phillips stated that the committee made a
 318 recommendation to proceed with quantitative scoring for P6 projects since this is mainly an internal
 319 NCDOT process that may also benefit local decision makers. Anne Phillips continued that the P6 process
 320 will pause after quantitative scoring is completed and before Local Input Point assignment windows, and
 321 the committee will meet again to reassess the financial situation and determine next steps.

322 Michael Parker made a motion to endorse the proposed alternate criteria for highway projects
 323 in SPOT 6.0. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

324 **15. 2050 MTP - SE Data and TRM**

325 **Andy Henry, LPA**

326 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that this item would be postponed until the MPO Board Meeting on
 327 November 4.

328 **REPORTS:**

329 **16. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

330 **Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair**

331 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the Durham County Board of Commissioners has submitted
 332 language regarding legislative goals for transit and passenger rail to the League of Municipalities and the
 333 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

334 **17. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

335 **Nish Trivedi, TC Chair**

336 Nish Trivedi stated that there is nothing additional to report.

337 **18. Report from LPA Staff**

338 **Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

339 Felix Nwoko stated that there is nothing new to report.

340 **19. NCDOT Report**

341 David Keilson, Division 5, stated that the East End Connector project plans to shift traffic
342 patterns to the permanent alignment. David Keilson noted that, for the Alston Avenue project, the
343 intersection of Alston Avenue and Holloway Street will be closed for 90 days. David Keilson added that
344 completion for that project is scheduled for December 2021. David Keilson stated that, for the Old
345 Durham/Chapel Hill Road project, the completion date will be December 2021 with the section
346 between US 15-501 and Standish Drive to be completed by December 2020.

347 Pat Wilson, Division 7, stated that there is no additional report. Michael Parker asked about the
348 status of the funding for the Estes Road project. Aaron Cain responded that the Congestion Mitigation
349 and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds have been released but not the Surface Transportation Block Grant-
350 Direct Attributable (STBGDA) funds.

351 Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that there are no additional updates.

352 Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division, stated that there are draft recommendations for
353 the NC Moves 2050 Plan, and they can be found on ncdot.gov. Julie Bogle added that the 30-day public
354 comment period for the plan will end on November 9. Julie Bogle added that she is scheduled to give a
355 presentation to the MPO Board about the NC Moves 2050 Plan on November 4.

356 John Grant, NCDOT Traffic Operations, stated that there are no additional updates.

357 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

358 **21. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

359 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the next meeting is scheduled for November 4.

360 **ADJOURNMENT:**

361 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
362 12:15 p.m.