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DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

27 September 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on September 27, 2017, 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
Margaret Hauth (Vice Chair)	Hillsborough Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	Durham County Planning
Laura Woods (Alternate)	Durham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Richard Hancock (Member)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Member)	NCDOT, Division 7
Brian Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Ed Venable (Alternate)	City of Durham Public Works
Lisa Miller (Alternate)	Durham City-County Planning
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County

Quorum Count: 16 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

42 Nishith Trivedi introduced himself as the new planner from Orange County.

43 **PRELIMINARIES:**

44 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

45 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

46 **3. Public Comments**

47 There were no public comments.

48 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

49 **4. Approval of August 23, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes**

50 Geoff Green made a motion to approve the August 23, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Laura Woods
51 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

52 **ACTION ITEMS:**

53 **5. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

54 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

55 Andy Henry discussed the schedule for developing, approving, and receiving comments for the
56 MTP. Andy Henry reviewed the sources for the population and employment guide totals, and the MTP
57 maps. Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the Durham Freeway project should be
58 termed a modernization project. Andy Henry stated that projects were listed in alphabetical order by
59 decade. He also discussed how the county transit plans and local bicycle and pedestrian plans were used
60 as sources for projects in the MTP, and how the DCHC MPO's complete streets guidelines were
61 incorporated into the MTP. Andy Henry discussed the MTP's financial plan and revenue projections
62 based on the optimistic scenario. He also discussed how he came up with estimates for local and private
63 funds. Andy Henry discussed how the estimates for the managed lanes projects resulted in overspending
64 for the last decade of the MTP.

65 Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed whether the state share for the Wake-Durham
66 commuter rail project and the Chapel Hill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project have already been accounted

67 for in the budget. Chair Ellen Beckmann noted that the limits for the managed lanes project differed in
68 the feasibility study and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and inquired whether the cost
69 of the project was modified accordingly. Andy Henry discussed how he modified the cost estimate based
70 on the limits of the managed lane project. Andy Henry reviewed the share of spending for each mode in
71 the three decades of the MTP, and drew attention to how the high cost of the Durham-Orange Light Rail
72 Transit project (D-O LRT) affected the overall balance of spending in the first two decades.

73 In responses to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Andy Henry confirmed that Strategic
74 Transportation Investments (STI) rules were factored all the way through the MTP but were relaxed in
75 the last decade. There was discussion of whether the effect of STI rules on the Strategic Prioritization
76 Office of Transportation (SPOT) scoring was factored into the final decade of the MTP. Chair Ellen
77 Beckmann stated that she wanted to be able to use the MTP to argue for certain legislative changes,
78 particularly pertaining to the 10% cap on transit projects.

79 Geoff Green pointed out that there were no capital intensive transit projects that would be
80 typically funded through STI beyond the first decade of the MTP, and that perhaps a major investment
81 study is needed to identify corridors where transit investments are needed. There was discussion of
82 whether the extension of the commuter rail to Mebane was a priority for the later decades of the MTP.
83 Andy Henry discussed how he came up with a cost estimate for the extension of the commuter rail to
84 Hillsborough.

85 There was discussion of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated
86 that she did not think the treatment of bicycle and pedestrian project was ambitious enough, and that
87 no funding should be left on the table.

88 Felix Nwoko stated that based on comments from the last MPO Board meeting the last batch of
89 major capital transit projects would be a light rail extension to Carrboro and a commuter rail extension
90 to Hillsborough. He added that these projects should be added to the MTP if there is available funding

91 so that staff can receive feedback from the public and MPO Board members on these projects. Andy
92 Henry confirmed that these projects were in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in response
93 to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann. Andy Henry and Felix Nwoko discussed how transit maps can
94 be modified to show future improvements in service. There was discussion of whether there was a cost
95 estimate for the light rail extension to Carrboro. Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the local match for the
96 extension and how a change in STI legislation might affect the project.

97 Andy Henry discussed the schedule for the next steps in the development of the MTP. John
98 Hodges-Copple discussed elements of the socioeconomic data that would not be nailed down in time for
99 the preferred option to be released at the October MPO Board meeting. There was discussion of the
100 best way to update the model while making sure the 42-day public comment period for the preferred
101 option is met. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed whether the local governments would
102 provide comments on the preferred option. Andy Henry stated that it was possible to have the model
103 updates by the October TC meeting in response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann. Andy Henry
104 proposed asking the MPO Board to authorize the release of the preferred option after further review
105 from the TC at its October meeting. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for and received clarification about the
106 updates that would be made before the MPO Board presentation. Andy Henry stated that he would look
107 into the extension of the commuter rail and light rail projects, and that he now had more information on
108 assumptions from Chatham Transit. John Hodges-Copple commented that it was important to
109 determine how the commuter rail and light rail extensions related to the Orange County Transit Plan.
110 Andy Henry stated that it would likely be necessary to state that these projects would not be completed
111 under current STI legislation.

112 Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to forward the updated preferred option to the MPO
113 Board and to authorize them to release it for public comment subject to further review by the TC. Lisa
114 Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

115 **6. FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1**

116 Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

117 Amendment #1 to the FY2018 UPWP proposes to obligate Surface Transportation Block Grant
 118 Direct Attribution (STBG-DA) funds that had been de-obligated in prior years for the Lead Planning
 119 Agency (LPA) and the Town of Chapel Hill, and de-obligate all Orange County funds. Felix Nwoko stated
 120 that the funds from Orange County would eventually be flexed to transit. Felix Nwoko added that the
 121 LPA would be using de-obligated funds to complete data collection by November.

122 Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve
 123 Amendment #1 to the FY2018 UPWP. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed
 124 unanimously.

125 **7. Surface Transportation Block Grant -Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) and Transportation Alternative**
 126 **Program (TAP) Funding Distribution for FY2019**

127 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

128 Felix Nwoko stated that it is time for the MPO to distribute STBG-DA and TAP allocations for
 129 FY19 to kick off development of the FY2019 UPWP. A split for STBG-DA allocation was shown in the
 130 attached table for LPA, transit, and local discretionary funds. He drew attention to an attached timeline
 131 for a call for bicycle and pedestrian projects and flexing. Felix Nwoko discussed a rescission under
 132 discussion in the House of Representatives. He stated that making sure all projects are spoken for in the
 133 TIP may be helpful in the case of a rescission.

134 Chair Ellen Beckmann clarified that projects are only protected when funds are obligated, not
 135 when they are programmed. She also discussed how supplemental agreements could be used to
 136 increase funding for projects until a project is closed out. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that this
 137 method, which was used for the West Ellerbe Creek Trial, may be a fast way to obligate funding. Felix
 138 Nwoko stated that the LPA was also working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation
 139 (NCDOT) on this issue.

140 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY2019
 141 distribution of STBG-DA and TAP funds. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion
 142 passed unanimously.

143 **8. Request for DCHC MPO Support for Town of Carrboro NCDOT Bicycle Planning Grant Application**

144 Tina Moon, Town of Carrboro

145 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

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147 Aaron Cain stated that the Town of Carrboro is required to provide a resolution of support from
 148 the MPO Board as part of its application for a NCDOT Bicycle Planning Grant. Aaron Cain stated that the
 149 grant would be used to update Carrboro's Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan.

150 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the resolution in
 151 support of the Town of Carrboro's grant application to update its Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation
 152 Plan. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

153 **9. Review of NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy**

154 Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

155 In late June, DCHC MPO staff learned that the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) was
 156 considering changes to the NCDOT Sidewalk and Pedestrian Policy. A TC subcommittee reviewed the
 157 existing Sidewalk and Pedestrian Policy and provided comments and suggestions for change. A letter
 158 based on these comments has been drafted for review prior to being provided to the MPO Board for
 159 consideration. Dale McKeel highlighted some of the changes suggested by the letter. Dale McKeel stated
 160 that Deputy Secretary of Multi-Modal Transportation Julie White has asked the Bicycle and Pedestrian
 161 Division to create a committee to advise the department moving forward, and that Chair Ellen
 162 Beckmann has been selected to be part of the group.

163 After discussion of who the letter should be addressed to, it was decided that the letter should
 164 be addressed to Transportation Secretary James Trogdon and copied to Deputy Secretary Julie White
 165 and NCDOT BOT member Nina Szlosberg-Landis.

166 Geoff Green made some suggestions about phrasing in the letter and pointed out that it was
167 important that the NCDOT BOT get input from bicycle and pedestrian planners around the state, not just
168 highway planners. Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the limitations of restricting this process to feedback
169 from working groups.

170 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked that the letter be made more specific, especially when it comes to
171 the local government cost share for pedestrian facilities. Dale McKeel described the current procedure
172 for determining the local government cost share of pedestrian facilities. Chair Ellen Beckmann requested
173 that additional specific changes be made pertaining to the existing bridge and bicycle lane policies. Felix
174 Nwoko discussed recent MPO Board directives pertaining to NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy. Dale
175 McKeel pointed out that the recent MPO discussion was perhaps more about STI legislation, and that
176 addressing this issue may excessively broaden the scope of the letter. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that
177 a second letter from the MPO Board Chair may be necessary to address overarching bicycle and
178 pedestrian issues. Bill Judge asked that a few additional issues be addressed in the letter, especially
179 street lighting.

180 Lisa Miller made a motion to forward the letter to the MPO Board with the modifications
181 discussed and to ask the MPO staff to write a letter that requests that NCDOT Deputy Secretary Julie
182 attend a meeting for a broader discussion of bicycle and pedestrian concerns. Geoff Green seconded the
183 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

184 **10. Draft FY2018-27 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan**

185 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

186 Aaron Cain discussed the schedule for developing the TIP. He commented on how the delayed
187 release of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has affected development of the TIP.
188 He also discussed issues he was having formatting the document, the database, and importing project
189 maps from the previous year. Aaron Cain stated that he hoped to resolve missing or problematic

190 elements in coming weeks. Aaron Cain asked that the TC review Appendix B, or differences between the
 191 adopted STIP and the MPO’s changes.

192 Geoff Green asked that the Triangle Transit image on the cover be replaced. Aaron Cain asked
 193 representatives of local jurisdictions to send him any pictures they want used in the TIP. Geoff Green
 194 asked that the description of the D-O LRT be made consistent with the description in the STIP. There was
 195 discussion of whether federal engineering dollars for the D-O LRT should be included in the TIP. Chair
 196 Ellen Beckmann commended Aaron Cain for using Adobe InDesign to update the TIP.

197 Evan Tenenbaum made a motion recommend that the MPO Board release the Draft FY2018-27
 198 TIP for public comment. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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REPORTS:

201 **11. Reports from the LPA Staff**

202 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

203 Felix Nwoko stated that preproposal meeting for the US 15-501 corridor study would be held in
 204 the City Council Committee Room at Durham City Hall.

205 Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO has been selected to host the North Carolina Association
 206 of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) conference during the last week of April 2018. Aaron
 207 Cain stated that no specific hotel would be contracted for the conference, the conference would be held
 208 at the Durham Convention Center, and that there was a need for local sessions in the jurisdictions.

209 Aaron Cain requested that TC members help develop ideas for those local sessions.

210 **12. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

211 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

212 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that October 4 is National Walk to School day and that there would
 213 be activities happening in every jurisdiction. She added that Durham has been chosen by NCDOT to host
 214 the statewide sponsored event. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated Durham’s event would take place at
 215 Lakewood Elementary school.

216 **13. NCDOT Reports**

217 Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, provided an updated on the Alston Avenue project. He added
 218 that the Division was working with the City of Durham to install interim crossings at Eastway Elementary
 219 school. Richard Hancock stated that night work on Old Chapel Hill Road would be ending because of utility
 220 conflicts. Richard Hancock discussed closures related to the Barbee/Herndon roundabout project and the
 221 East End Connector project.

222 Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there was a delay with the reconfiguration of lanes on the
 223 I-40 project near US 15-501. He also outlined the procedure for submitting SPOT projects on the Division's
 224 behalf. Aaron Cain reviewed the number of bicycle and pedestrian projects that the Divisions 5 and 7
 225 would be submitting for the DCHC MPO.

226 Brian Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that Division 8 has one project to submit, on US 15-501, in
 227 the DCHC MPO's jurisdiction, and that there were no bicycle and pedestrian projects.

228 Aaron Cain confirmed that he would not actually click submit for the projects that Division 7 would
 229 be submitting for the DCHC MPO.

230 There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

231 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

232 **14. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

233 There were no informational items.

234 **ADJOURNMENT:**

235 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
 236 adjourned at 10:26 a.m.