



Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, March 8, 2023

9:00 AM

Committee Room 2nd Floor Durham City Hall

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Regular Meeting

**1. Roll Call**

Vice Chair Karen Howard called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The roll call was completed using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom participant list for remote attendees. Vice Chair Karen Howard requested the Board consider excused absences for Chair Jenn Weaver and Damon Seils. Jamezetta Bedford made motion to approve excused absences for Chair Jenn Weaver and Damon Seils. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Ethics Reminder**

Vice Chair Karen Howard referenced the Ethics Reminder included in the agenda packet.

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Vice Chair Karen Howard recommended that information item 13 (S-Line Presentation) move up as item 8A, that action item 9 (Orange County Interlocal Agreement) move up as item 8B, and that action item Item 12A (DCHC + TJCOG agreement for employees) be added to the agenda.

Michael Parker made a motion to accept these adjustments to the agenda. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**5. Approval of the February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**  
David Miller, LPA Staff

A copy of the February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes is attached.

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Minutes was approved.**

**6. City of Durham Letter of Support Request for Areas of Persistent Poverty**  
Program Grant Application  
Evian Patterson, City of Durham

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Resolution was adopted.**

**7. Amendment #14 to the FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Resolution was adopted.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**8A. S-Line Presentation (15 minutes)**

Jason T. Orthner, Rail Division Director, NCDOT

Jason Orthner shared the NCDOT Rail Division mission and scope, its types of passenger rail service, ridership statistics from 2018 to 2022, its operations throughout North Carolina, and the Division's Corridor Identification Program Opportunities. Jason Orthner presented the background of the S-Line project, project grant awards, population density statistics and the regional benefits the project is working to meet. Jason Orthner shared the project's next steps, and mentioned that letters of support for the S-Line project are encouraged and can accompany funding applications. Jason Orthner shared that Siemens Mobility will be creating an advanced manufacturing and rail services center in Lexington.

Wendy Jacobs asked how the S-Line project could help move the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) project forward, and Jason Orthner replied that there are elements of the S-Line project, including infrastructure improvements, that could support commuter rail service.

Wendy Jacobs made a motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign a letter of support for the Rail Division's grant applications on behalf of the MPO Board. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Informational Report was received and filed.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**8B. Orange County Interlocal Agreement (15 minutes)**

Adam Howell, Atkins

Adam Howell provided an update on the Orange County Interlocal Agreement (ILA), shared updates to the Transit Governance ILA based on feedback received, shared updates pertaining to - and an outline of - the Comprehensive Participation Agreement (CPA), and next steps in the adoption process. Ellen Beckmann stated that the Durham County ILA is identical to Orange County's ILA, and expects to receive approval from the Durham Board of Commissioners on March 13.

Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to adopt the Orange County Transit Program Interlocal Agreement. Vice Chair Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Resolution was adopted.**

**8. FY2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (10 minutes)**  
David Miller, LPA Staff

David Miller stated that the FY2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was released for public comment on February 8, but no comments have been received. David Miller stated the remaining timeline for the FY2024 UPWP adoption process. Vice Chair Karen Howard called the public hearing to be open. No comments were received. Vice Chair Karen Howard closed the public hearing.

Wendy Jacobs requested that information pertaining to administrative costs based on the MPO's transition to Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) be included in the FY2024 UPWP, and Doug Plachcinski replied that while this information is still to be determined, it will be included.

**This Resolution was referred to the Technical Committee due back on 3/22/2023**

**10. FY24 Call for Projects - Recommended Projects for Funding (15 minutes)**  
Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Kelly Fomenko shared and highlighted the eleven comments that were received as part of the FY24 call for projects. Wendy Jacobs asked if intersections that have received public comment can be addressed as part of any funded projects, and Doug Plachcinski replied that the MPO's Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program presents an opportunity to do so. Bill Judge added that the City of Durham has funds to improve pedestrian crossings in the area that the public comment is referencing, and that the project is currently in the design phase.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the FY24 Call for Projects recommended projects and authorize submission of recommended CMAQ projects to NCDOT. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Resolution was adopted.**

**11. FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap (15 minutes)**  
Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Kelly Fomenko shared the FY2024-2033 STIP Swap process. Kelly Fomenko stated that six projects are being considered for swapping in, and three projects are being considered for swapping out. Kelly Fomenko stated that twenty-seven comments have been received during the public comment period. Michael Parker stated that GoTriangle would like to request that bicycle, pedestrian and transit opportunities be considered as part of projects along NC 54 and I-40, as well as infrastructure that can accommodate Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the recommended STIP swaps. Leonardo Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Resolution was adopted.**

**12A DCHC MPO and TJCOG Agreement for Employees**  
Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski presented an agreement between the City of Durham and TJCOG that would allow reimbursement of staff costs between the two agencies at an audited and approved rate, and

would provide support for the MPO's UPWP task areas directly. Doug Plachcinski stated that this process would cut down on staff time devoted to onboarding new MPO employees at the City of Durham, and then at TJCOG. Doug Plachcinski stated that TJCOG has executed their side of the agreement.

Leonardo Williams made a motion to approve the DCHC and TJCOG Agreement for Employees. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Resolution was adopted.**

**12. Request to Establish a Commuter Rail Working Group (5 minutes)**  
Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski stated that CAMPO has formed a working group consisting of its Board members to discuss commuter rail within the region and have asked DCHC MPO to do the same. The Board selected Michael Parker, Sally Greene, Javiera Caballero, Chair Jenn Weaver, Damon Seils and Wendy Jacobs as DCHC MPO's representatives.

Leonardo Williams made a motion to establish a commuter rail working group. Javiera Caballero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**This Resolution was adopted.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**14. Bus Rapid Transit Western Extension (15 minutes)**  
Shelby Powell, CAMPO

Shelby Powell presented the background of the Wake Bus Rapid Transit project, the project's funding, a map of the western and southern extension study areas, engagement activities, and details about the western extension alternatives that were developed. Shelby Powell shared the next steps in the project, which included analyses, modeling forecasts, additional funding needs, and studies regarding operations.

**This Informational Report was received and filed.**

**15. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update - Study Area and Corridor (15 minutes)**  
Yanping Zhang, LPA Staff

Yanping Zhang shared the eight steps that are part of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and stated that the presentation will focus on the second step: study areas and corridors. Yanping Zhang said that the study area and MPO boundaries are based on U.S. Census data, and that the 2020 U.S. Census data was released on December 2022. Yanping Zhang shared a visual representation of this new data and revised boundaries, the corridor list and transit routes for study within the 2023 CMP.

**This Informational Report was received and filed.**

**REPORTS:**

**16. Report from the Board Chair**  
Jenn Weaver, Board Chair

Vice Chair Karen Howard had no items to report.

**This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 4/12/2023**

**17. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**  
Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair

Nishith Trivedi stated that public engagement activities have been scheduled for both the US- 70 multimodal corridor study and Annual Work Programs for both Durham and Orange counties.

**This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 4/12/2023**

**18. Report from LPA Staff**  
Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski reminded Board members to file their annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) and Real Estate Disclosure (RED) forms. Doug Plachcinski stated that a Board and TC meeting may need to be held in June and July due to items requiring a vote.

**This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 4/12/2023**

**19. NCDOT Reports**

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation  
Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT  
Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT  
Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT  
Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT  
John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT  
Nick Morrison - NCDOT IMD

**Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation:** Lisa Mathis updated the Board on the N.C. Clean Transportation Plan, NCDOT outreach DBE meetings, and the Spring Litter Sweep program.

**Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT:** Tracy Parrot provided an update on the Alston Avenue project.

**Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT:** There was no additional report.

**Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT:** There was no additional report.

**Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT:** There was no additional report.

**John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT:** There was no additional report.

**Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division - NCDOT:** Nick Morrison stated that the NCDOT IMD Multimodal Planning Grant Program application process is open through April 10.

**This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 4/12/2023**

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:

**20. Recent News Articles and Updates**

Vice Chair Karen Howard referenced the recent news articles and updates.

**This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 4/12/2023**

**21. 15-501 Modernization and I-40 Interchange TIP Project U-6067 Update Letter to NCDOT**

Vice Chair Karen Howard referenced the letter to NCDOT.

**This Informational Report was received and filed.**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business before the MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

**Next meeting: April 12, 2023, 9 a.m., Committee Room**

**Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings: None**