

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

May 26, 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on May 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. through a teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

- Ellen Beckmann (Chair) Durham County
- Nishith Trivedi (Vice Chair) Orange County
- Evan Tenenbaum (Member) City of Durham
- Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member) City of Durham Transportation/Go Durham
- Kayla Seibel (Member) City of Durham Planning
- Brooke Ganser (Member) Durham County
- Scott Whiteman (Member) Durham County
- Tina Moon (Member) Carrboro Planning
- Zach Hallock (Member) Carrboro Planning
- Bergen Watterson (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- Josh Mayo (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- Kumar Neppalli (Member) Chapel Hill Engineering
- Margaret Hauth (Member) Town of Hillsborough
- Chance Mullis (Member) Chatham County Planning
- John Hodges-Copple (Member) TJCOG
- Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle
- Hank Graham (Member) Research Triangle Foundation
- Julie Bogle (Member) NCDOT TPD
- John Grant (Member) NCDOT Traffic Operations
- Kurt Stolka (Member) The University of North Carolina
- Michael Page (Member) North Carolina Central University
- Tom Altieri (Member) Orange County Planning
- Theo Letman (Member) Orange Public Transportation
- Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle
- Bill Judge (Alternate) City of Durham
- Brian Taylor (Alternate) City of Durham Transportation
- David Keilson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- Richard Hancock (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- Stephen Robinson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 7
- Bryan Kluchar (Alternate) NCDOT Division 8
- Cha'ssem Anderson (Alternate) The University of North Carolina
- Matt Cecil (Alternate) Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
- Meg Scully (Alternate) GoTriangle

- Joe Geigle, Federal Highway Administration
- Rachel Stair, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority

43 Iona Thomas, McAdams
44 Erich Melville, McAdams
45 Tom Devlin, City of Durham
46 Ayden Cohen, Research Triangle Foundation

47 Brian Rhodes DCHC MPO
48 Aaron Cain DCHC MPO
49 Anne Phillips DCHC MPO
50 Andy Henry DCHC MPO
51 Dale McKeel City of Durham/DCHC MPO
52 Yanping Zhang, DCHC MPO
53 Kayla Mathews DCHC MPO
54 Mariel Klein, DCHC MPO

55 Quorum count: 30 of 31 voting members

56 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

57 **PRELIMINARIES:**

58 **1. Roll Call**

59 The roll call would be completed using the Zoom participant list. A new Technical
60 Committee Member with the Town of Chapel Hill, Josh Mayo, was introduced. Hank Graham
61 announced his resignation from the Research Triangle Foundation and said Ayden Cohen
62 would be replacing him on the TC, though official notification is still forthcoming.

63 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

64 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

65 **3. Public Comments**

66 There were no public comments.

67 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

68 **4. Approval of the April 28, 2021 TC Meeting Minutes**

69 There was no discussion on the consent agenda. Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to
70 approve the consent agenda. Chance Mullis seconded the motion. The motion passed
71 unanimously.

72 **ACTION ITEMS:**

73 **5. Triangle Bikeway Study Update**
74 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

75 Iona Thomas, leader of the bicycle/pedestrian practice with McAdams, gave an update
76 on the Triangle Bikeway Study, which aims to determine the best alignment for a 17-mile
77 bicycle/pedestrian facility throughout the Triangle Region. Iona Thomas reviewed the 2020
78 public input process that resulted in over 2,000 survey respondents with a good distribution
79 along the corridor and a varied representation of intended uses/destinations. Iona Thomas
80 shared several different breakdowns of survey data to further analyze the results.

81 Iona Thomas discussed the relationship of the Triangle Bikeway project to North
82 Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) project U-5774 (NC 54 Corridor
83 Improvements) that will address many of the bicycle/pedestrian facility needs when it is
84 constructed. Richard Hancock provided details on the schedule for three sections of U-5774 that
85 are currently in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and State Transportation
86 Improvement Program (STIP).

87 Iona Thomas showed a map of possible alignment alternatives and the recommended
88 alignment for the Triangle Bikeway. Iona Thomas said the next steps include an updated
89 website launch, public meetings, a Triangle Working Group (TWG) meeting, and continued
90 coordination with NCDOT.

91 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi thanked Iona Thomas and the McAdams team for including
92 Orange County and Chapel Hill in this regional project and for conducting thorough public
93 engagement. Chair Ellen Beckmann agreed that coordination with the NC 54 project presents a
94 good opportunity for funding, although many sections are still not yet funded. Chair Ellen
95 Beckmann mentioned potential challenges for Durham residents to get to the Triangle Bikeway.
96 Iona Thomas said this issue will be addressed specifically in the next round of public
97 engagement that will allow survey respondents to pick a place on the map of where they think
98 an access point is needed. There was a discussion of whether this project should be an

99 independent project or partnered with NCDOT, which maintains over 90% of the right of way for
100 the proposed alignment. Iona Thomas pointed out that this project is an opportunity to foster
101 regional cooperation while also fitting the project into the transportation network of each local
102 community. Chair Ellen Beckmann said she sees potential for NCDOT to be the project
103 manager of the Triangle Bikeway. This item will be brought to the next DCHC MPO Board
104 meeting.

105 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

106 **6. 2050 MTP -- Alternative Analysis**

107 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

108 **John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

109 Andy Henry said this item requests the TC to recommend that the DCHC MPO Board in
110 June preemptively authorize MPO staff to release the Alternative Analysis for a public comment
111 period once the documentation is ready in late June or early July because the DCHC MPO
112 Board will not meet in July. Andy Henry said the Alternatives Analysis aims to kick off the
113 discussion about different land use and transportation possibilities to help form the preferred
114 scenario patchwork as the next milestone in the development of the 2050 Metropolitan
115 Transportation Plan (MTP).

116 John Hodges-Copple provided context on the MTP development and reminded meeting
117 participants that scenarios are simplified versions of the real world to aid in informed decision
118 making. John Hodges-Copple reviewed the scenario framework that produces four scenarios,
119 each based on the intersection of a particular development foundation (land use) and a
120 particular mobility investment foundation. Each scenario has its own set of revenue assumptions
121 and fiscal constraint. John Hodges-Copple mentioned the difference between anchors and
122 mainstays in key hubs and emphasized equity centered places called REINVEST
123 Neighborhoods (RE= Race/Ethnicity, IN=Income, VE=Vehicles, ST=Status). John Hodges-

124 Cople reviewed the different development foundations and Andy Henry reviewed the different
125 mobility investment foundations.

126 Tina Moon mentioned that despite efforts to increase transit availability and implement
127 bicycle/pedestrian projects, Triangle Regional Model (TRM) data for the scenarios will likely still
128 show an increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and congestion. Tina Moon asked for
129 members to stop and think about if anything could be changed in the scenarios to avoid this
130 undesirable outcome. Chair Ellen Beckmann expressed interest in changing the 2045 MTP
131 assumptions to put more funding towards maintenance of existing roadway facilities rather than
132 roadway expansion. Andy Henry said about 30-40% of overall highway revenue is put towards
133 maintenance of existing roads, and that amount could be increased, which would in turn leave
134 less funding for highway expansion projects. Chair Ellen Beckmann said transit and
135 bicycle/pedestrian projects are certainly worthwhile but reducing the highway expansion trend
136 could also help achieve the MPO's climate goals. Andy Henry said he would work with Yanping
137 Zhang to potentially adjust the TRM mobility foundations to include less highway projects to see
138 the effect on VMT predictions.

139 Jay Heikes mentioned that in addition to the need for maintenance, funds could be
140 shifted towards retrofitting existing roads and intersections to become complete streets and
141 improve safety.

142 Andy Henry shared the Performance Measures and tools that will be used to compare
143 scenarios during the public engagement process. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi thanked local
144 jurisdictions for their active involvement in this process and thanked Triangle J Council of
145 Government (TJCOG) for thoroughly exploring key hubs. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi commended
146 the increased engagement in Communities of Concern and the increased emphasis on equity
147 and the environment.

148 Jay Heikes made a motion to recommend that the DCHC MPO Board authorize staff to
149 release the Alternatives Analysis when the modeling and documentation are complete. Tom
150 Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

151 **7. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6**
152 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

153 Anne Phillips said no public comments were received throughout the 21-day public
154 comment period. Anne Phillips pointed out the following three changes included in TIP
155 Amendment #6: 1) the Regional Transit Center has been added, 2) Chapel Hill Transit
156 requested the North-South Bus Rapid Transit project be added, and 3) NCDOT requested two
157 additional statewide Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) projects be
158 fast tracked.

159 Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend that the DCHC MPO Board approve
160 TIP Amendment #6. Julie Bogle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

161 **8. SPOT 6.0 Draft Local Input Points Methodology**
162 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

163 Anne Phillips said no public comments were received. Anne Phillips pointed out the
164 addition of a sustainability metric to the now seven-point rubric.

165 Zach Hallock made a motion to recommend that the DCHC MPO Board adopt the 2021
166 Local Input Points Methodology. Hank Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed
167 unanimously.

168 **9. 2021 CRRSAA Section 5310 Project Selection**
169 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager**

170 Aaron Cain said the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act
171 (CRRSAA) includes a federal requirement to have a competitive call for projects. The only
172 submitted application was from GoDurham ACCESS and the full amount of \$47,435 has been
173 apportioned to GoDurham ACCESS.

174 Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend the DCHC MPO Board approve the
 175 use of CRRSAA 5310 funds for the GoDurham ACCESS application. Ellen Beckmann seconded
 176 the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

177 **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

178 **10. Report from Staff**
 179 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager**

180 Aaron Cain said a final decision from NCDOT on CMAQ funding is expected in June.
 181 Andy Henry gave an update on CTP Amendment #3 and said problem statements are still being
 182 worked on and will be shared with the TC in July.

183 **11. Report from the Chair**
 184 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

185 Chair Ellen Beckmann cancelled the June 2021 TC meeting. There was consensus that
 186 the July 2021 TC meeting would be held virtually and the transition to in-person or hybrid
 187 meetings would be discussed at that meeting.

188 **12. NCDOT Reports**
 189 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson, Richard Hancock), Division 5 – NCDOT**

190 David Keilson gave an update on the Alston Avenue/Hollow Street intersection project,
 191 the Old Durham-Old Chapel Hill project, and the East End Connector.

192 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT**

193 Stephen Robinson had no additional report.

194 **Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT**

195 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

196 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT**

197 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

198 **John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

199 John Grant had no additional report.

200 **Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division-NCDOT**

201 There was no additional report.

202 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

203 **Adjourn**

204 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ellen Beckmann

205 at 11:03 a.m.

206 **Next meeting: July 28, 9 a.m., meeting location to be determined**