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|----|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 47 | | |
| 48 | Margaret Hauth | Town of Hillsborough |
| 49 | Mila Vega | Chapel Hill Transit |
| 50 | John Hodges-Copple | Triangle J Council of Governments |
| 51 | Tammy Bouchelle | GoTriangle |
| 52 | Katharine Eggleston | GoTriangle |
| 53 | Patrick McDonough | GoTriangle |
| 54 | Terry Bellamy | City of Durham Transportation |
| 55 | Bill Judge | City of Durham Transportation |
| 56 | Ellen Beckmann | City of Durham Transportation |
| 57 | Bryan Poole | City of Durham Transportation |
| 58 | Eddie Dancausse | Federal Highway Administration |
| 59 | Felix Nwoko | DCHC MPO |
| 60 | Andy Henry | DCHC MPO |
| 61 | Meg Scully | DCHC MPO |
| 62 | Dale McKeel | DCHC MPO |
| 63 | Brian Rhodes | DCHC MPO |
| 64 | David Laudicina | Orange County Resident |
| 65 | Ramona McGee | Southern Environmental Law Center |
| 66 | Julie McClintock | Chapel Hill Resident |
| 67 | Joan Guilkey | Chapel Hill Resident |
| 68 | Matthew Clark | Citizen |
| 69 | Bonnie Hauser | Citizen |
| 70 | Nathaniel Greene | Citizen |
| 71 | John Kent | Citizen |

72
73 Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members

74
75 Chair Steve Schewel called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A roll call was performed. The
76 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are
77 indicated above. Chair Steve Schewel reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was
78 being circulated.

79 Nina Szlosberg-Landis and Michael Fox introduced themselves as Vice Chair and Chair of the North
80 Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Board of Transportation (BOT), respectively. Ellen
81 Reckhow reflected on Nina Szlosberg-Landis' past work on the NCDOT BOT.

82 **PRELIMINARIES:**

83 **2. Ethics Reminder**

84 Chair Steve Schewel read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
85 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
86 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
87 MPO Board members.

88 Chair Steve Schewel reminded the MPO Board to file their 2017 Statement of Economic
89 Interest and Real Estate Disclosure forms with the North Carolina Ethics Commission by April 15, 2017.
90 Pam Hemminger inquired whether it was possible to enter individual addresses into the online forms,
91 and Ellen Reckhow suggested that she contact someone at the Ethics Commission.

92 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

93 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

94 **4. Public Comments**

95 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak.

96 Nathaniel Greene, a resident of 411 Parkman Grant Drive, Cary, NC, drew attention to rapid
97 growth occurring along O’Kelly Chapel Road from NC 751 to NC 55. Nathaniel Greene pointed out that
98 this area is caught between municipalities, counties, and MPOs. Nathaniel Greene stated that the area
99 does not warrant immediate action in light of current population projections and traffic studies, but he
100 hoped that future actions would be taken to make this fast growing corridor safer for residents of Cary,
101 Chatham County, and Durham. Nathaniel Greene acknowledged recent safety measures that have
102 been taken along the corridor, namely the lowered speed limit and increased signage.

103 Chair Steve Schewel commented that the NCDOT BOT members had taken note of Nathaniel
104 Greene’s comments. Chair Steve Schewel thanked Nathaniel Greene for his comments.

105 **5. Directives to Staff**

106 The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

107 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

108 **6. Approval of March 7, 2017, MPO Board Meeting Minutes**109 **7. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA**110 **8. FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #2**111 **9. Revision to Approved FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**112 **10. Approval of Amendment #9 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan**

113 There was no discussion of the items on the Consent Agenda. Pam Hemminger made a motion
 114 to approve all items on the consent agenda. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed
 115 unanimously.

116 **ACTION ITEMS:**117 **11. Introduction and Remarks of Secretary of Transportation James H. Trogdon III**

118 Steve Schewel, MPO Board Chair

119 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

120 James Trogdon III, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation, discussed the priorities for the
 121 NCDOT, including: improving project delivery, safety, improved mobility, infrastructure enhancements,
 122 and investing in transportation technology. James Trogdon III also identified accelerating the NC 540
 123 Extension and partnering with GoTriangle to achieve success on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit
 124 (D-O LRT) project as priorities for NCDOT.

125 Valerie Jordan, NCDOT BOT member representing Division 5, introduced herself to the MPO
 126 Board.

127 Vice Chair Damon Seils and James Trogdon III discussed bundling small projects in the TIP in
 128 order to accelerate project delivery. Vice Chair Damon Seils stated that this kind of change could be
 129 helpful to smaller towns like Carrboro. Vice Chair Damon Seils and James Trogdon III discussed whether
 130 this measure would also apply to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements.

131 Ellen Reckhow and James Trogdon III discussed future state funding for large transit projects,
 132 and the prospect of removing the 10% cap on rail projects.

133 Ed Harrison commented on the proposed measure of having the Divisions handle smaller
 134 projects, and inquired about funding for the Chapel Hill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Ed Harrison
 135 distinguished between high capacity transit and ordinary transit, and also inquired about NCDOT's
 136 assertion that "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signs are not permitted in North Carolina. James Trogdon III
 137 stated that NCDOT is still evaluating the "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" issue.

138 Pam Hemminger commented that NCDOT has not been working with utility companies early
 139 enough to accomplish the steps needed to move projects along, and that she hoped that James Trogdon
 140 III would follow up on this issue.

141 Chair Steve Schewel thanked James Trogdon III for supporting the D-O LRT project, and
 142 commended the GoTriangle staff and the County Commissioners for working to meet upcoming
 143 deadlines.

144 Michael Fox commented on NCDOT's plan to work more closely with MPOs. Michael Fox also
 145 stated that Joey Hopkins and Mike Mills, the Division Engineers for two of the three Divisions in the
 146 DCHC MPO area, are experienced and known for working well with communities.

147 Chair Steve Schewel thanked James Trogdon III for attending the MPO Board meeting, and
 148 stated that the DCHC MPO was looking forward to improving its relationship with NCDOT and to the
 149 measures outlined by James Trogdon III.

150 This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

151 **12. Introduction and Remarks of Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator John F.**

152 **Sullivan III PE**

153 Steve Schewel, MPO Board Chair

154 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

155 John Sullivan III discussed the FHWA's priorities over the coming years, including: sustainable
 156 funding for transportation, reducing roadway fatalities, evaluating the performance of transportation
 157 investments, and working with stakeholders to connect communities to opportunities.

158 Chair Steve Schewel and John Sullivan III discussed the president's infrastructure plan.

159 Lydia Lavelle and John Sullivan III discussed the implications of Wake County's desire to build a
160 bicycle super highway along I-40.

161 Chair Steve Schewel and John Sullivan III clarified the ways in which federal staff interacts with
162 MPO staff.

163 James Trogdon III commended John Sullivan III for his work as FHWA Division Administrator, and
164 reflected on the strong relationship between the FHWA, NCDOT, and the MPOs.

165 This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

166 **13. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) -- Final**

167 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

168 Julie Bogle, NCDOT

169 Andy Henry stated that the maps for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) are
170 complete, and that the final report will be ready for the MPO Board's May meeting. Andy Henry drew
171 attention to a 14-page attachment detailing comments from the MPO Board and the public and how
172 they were addressed. He stated that this document was organized by transportation mode.

173 Chair Steve Schewel and Don Moffitt commented that the document was thorough and well-
174 organized.

175 This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

176 **14. FY2018-27 Draft STIP Public Hearing**

177 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

178 The draft FY2018-27 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) was released by NCDOT on
179 December 22, 2016. The MPO Board released the draft STIP for public comment on March 8, 2017.
180 Comments from the public will be incorporated into the record as the Local Planning Agency (LPA) Staff
181 develops the FY2018-27 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP).

182 Chair Steve Schewel opened the public hearing for the FY2018-27 STIP. No members of the
183 public spoke during the public hearing. Chair Steve Schewel declared the public hearing closed.

184 No further action was required by the MPO Board.

185 **15. Public Hearing for Durham County and Orange County Transit Plans**

186 John Tallmadge, GoTriangle

187 Chair Steve Schewel declared the public hearing open.

188 Julie McClintock, a resident of 614 Beechtree Court, Chapel Hill, NC, stated that the proposed D-
189 O LRT would not work in Orange County. Julie McClintock stated that the proposed D-O LRT line would
190 bypass downtown Chapel Hill and planned growth centers, and would only be beneficial to a subset of
191 UNC hospital workers. Julie McClintock stated that the D-O LRT would do little to reduce congestion on
192 US 15-501 and I-40. She also commented on the fact that the light rail project would use most of the
193 revenue from transit taxes, leaving insufficient funds for affordable bus services and BRT. Julie
194 McClintock also expressed concern that if things do not go according to GoTriangle's financial plan, the
195 county school budget and other essential services could be affected as leaders attempt to pay for Chapel
196 Hill's share of the plan. Julie McClintock stated that transit technology would be vastly different by the
197 time the proposed \$900 million debt for the D-O LRT is paid off. Julie McClintock urged the MPO Board
198 not to support the County Transit Plans for the reasons outlined above.

199 David Laudicina, a resident of Orange County, NC, stated that the D-O LRT and commuter rail
200 projects provide an opportunity to link the population and job centers of Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh,
201 and Cary. He commented on the future potential of linking Hillsborough, Burlington, Greensboro, and
202 High Point to the proposed light rail and commuter rail systems. David Laudicina stated that the
203 proposed rail projects could provide a competitive advantage to the Triangle region, a rapidly growing
204 innovation center. David Laudicina encouraged the MPO Board to accept the updated County Transit
205 Plans and proceed with building the light and commuter rail projects and the Chapel Hill BRT projects in
206 order to foster regional connectivity.

207 Joan Guilkey, a resident of 246 Glandon Drive, Chapel Hill, NC, commended the Orange County
208 Commissioners for hiring a consulting firm, Davenport, to conduct an independent review of the D-O
209 LRT financial plan. Joan Guilkey highlighted some of the assumptions of the financial plan and noted that

210 any one of the assumptions not going according to plan could derail the entire financial plan. Joan
211 Guilkey stated that if any one of the risks she outlined occurs, leaders will likely have to divert money
212 from schools, public safety, or other services to keep the D-O LRT project afloat. Joan Guilkey also drew
213 attention to interest costs from the long-term Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
214 (TIFIA) loans that were not included in the GoTriangle financial plan. Joan Guilkey urged the MPO Board
215 not to support the County Transit Plans.

216 Bonnie Hauser, a resident of 4301 Sugar Ridge Road, Hillsborough, NC, also drew attention to
217 the Davenport report and the estimated \$900 million in TIFIA loan interest that had not been disclosed
218 to Orange County leaders, citizens, or in the financial plan. Bonnie Hauser pointed out that under a
219 moderate scenario modeled by Davenport, consisting of an 82-18 cost-share split with Durham County,
220 the Orange County sales tax would barely cover the Orange County share of the project. Orange County
221 would have to use alternative sources to cover any cost overruns for the D-O LRT project. Bonnie Hauser
222 stated that there was no downturn in the sales tax forecast. Bonnie Hauser stated that Durham County
223 has not made efforts to vet the assumptions behind the financial plan. She also stated that there is no
224 data to support the assertion that the D-O LRT would reduce congestion or lower emissions. Bonnie
225 Hauser stated that only 3% of the population would be supported by the light rail, and that bus service
226 will suffer if the D-O LRT is implemented. Bonnie Hauser also discussed national transit ridership trends.
227 Bonnie Hauser asked the MPO Board to review the assumptions of the financial plans and support a
228 sustainable plan that improves public transportation for everyone.

229 Ramona McGee, a representative of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) and a
230 resident of Durham, NC, stated that the SELC supports the County Transit Plans. Ramona McGee
231 discussed the goals of the SELC. She stated that the plans effectively address current and forecasted
232 transportation needs, and enhances public transit options for all residents. Ramona McGee also
233 commented on the soundness and feasibility of the financial plans. She stated that the D-O LRT and the

234 Wake County commuter rail are smart, forward-thinking investments in helping to plan for future
235 growth and development within the region. She stated that these projects will encourage smart land use
236 decisions, such as mixed-use dense development. Ramona McGee discussed the environmental benefits
237 of the rail projects such as reducing areas that are paved over, preserving farms and wetlands, and
238 improving air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Ramona McGee reiterated the SELC's
239 support for the County Transit Plans, the D-O LRT, and the commuter rail project.

240 Matthew Clark, a resident of 300 Swift Avenue, Durham, NC, stated that he sees the D-O LRT as
241 an infrastructural nexus that will form a base for the future of education, healthcare, affordable housing,
242 living wage jobs, and economic equity in our region. Matthew Clark stated that he initially had concerns
243 about the financial plan, but is now convinced that it is sound. Matthew Clark stated that the Triangle
244 has already experienced a period of rapid growth and that it is primed for even more expansion. He
245 stated that the plans are forward thinking and will allow the region to preserve its commitment to
246 shared values such as education, healthcare, and affordable housing.

247 John Kent, a local resident, stated that he reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
248 for the D-O LRT and was concerned that a station, which was relocated near the US 15-501 bridge in
249 order to avoid cutting through the woods east of Patterson Place, has been moved back closer to the
250 hardwood bottom lands. John Kent pointed out that the New Hope Creek Corridor is a vital wildlife
251 corridor between Jordon Lake and Duke Forest, and that it should be preserved.

252 Chair Steve Schewel thanked the members of the public for their comments and stated that the
253 MPO Board takes such comments seriously. Chair Steve Schewel declared the public hearing closed.

254 No further action was required by the MPO Board.

255 **16. Minutes Recording Document**

256 This item was intentionally left blank.

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Reports

259 **17. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**

260 Steve Schewel, DCHC MPO Board Chair

261 There was no report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair.

262 **18. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

263 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

264 There was no report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair.

265 **19. Reports from LPA Staff**

266 Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

267 There was no report from the LPA Staff.

268 **20. NCDOT Reports:**

269 The NCDOT Division 5 report was included in the packet.

270 Wendy Jacobs commended Joey Hopkins for his responsiveness to the concerns of residents.

271 The NCDOT Division 7 report was included in the packet.

272 Ed Harrison and Mike Mills discussed the procedure for alerting Chapel Hill residents about road
273 resurfacing. Pat Wilson provided an update on the schedule for the Bennett Road roundabout and the
274 Greensboro Road/Estes Drive project in Chapel Hill for Pam Hemminger. In response to an inquiry from
275 Pam Hemminger, Richard Hancock stated that the project on Pope Road and Old Chapel Hill Road-Old
276 Durham Road will be let in May 2017. Richard Hancock discussed the scope and progress of the Old
277 Chapel Hill Road-Old Durham Road project.

278 The report from NCDOT Division 8 was included in the packet. There were no questions or
279 comments.

280 There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

281 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

282 Barry Jacobs commended Mike Mills for helping to improve the working relationship between
283 NCDOT and the local governments.

284 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

285 **12. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

286 Chair Steve Schewel called attention to NCDOT's response to a letter from the MPO Board about
287 bicycle safety issues on Old NC 86.

288 **ADJOURNMENT:**

289 The April 12, 2017, MPO Board meeting ended at 10:32 a.m. to allow for the one-on-one
290 meeting with NCDOT.