

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

2 **June 8, 2016**

3
4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on June 8,
7 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room on the second floor of Durham City
8 Hall. The following people were in attendance:

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10	Steve Schewel (MPO Board Chair)	City of Durham
11	Damon Seils (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Town of Carrboro
12	Don Moffitt (Member)	City of Durham
13	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	Durham County
14	Barry Jacobs (Member)	Orange County
15	Brian J. Lowen (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
16	James G. Crawford (Member)	Chatham County
17	Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
18	Ed Harrison (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
19		
20	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
21	Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
22	Ed Lewis	NCDOT, Division 7
23	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
24	Julie Bollinger	NCDOT, TPB
25	Max Bushnell	Orange County
26	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
27	David Bonk	Town of Chapel Hill
28	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
29	Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
30	Geoff Green	GoTriangle
31	Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
32	Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
33	Bryan Poole	City of Durham
34	Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
35	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
36	Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
37	Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
38	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
39	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
40	Debbie McCarthy	Farrington HARP

41
42 Quorum Count: 8 of 11 Voting Members

43
44

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

49 **PRELIMINARIES:**

50 **Ethics Reminder**

51 Chair Steve Schewel read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
52 interest with respect to matters coming before the Board and requested that if there were any
53 identified during the meeting for them to be announced.

54 There were no known conflicts identified by Board members.

55 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

56 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Ellen Reckhow stated
57 that she would add her comments about highway and non-highway projects when Staff Directives are
58 given.

59 **Public Comments**

60 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There
61 were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

62 **Directives to Staff**

63 The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review. Ellen Reckhow stated
64 that the new stoplight at Erwin and Randolph Roads has made the turning onto Erwin road safer. Ellen
65 Reckhow stated that Barry Jacobs [, Ed Harrison] and she would like to address the issues associated
66 with the safety of turning from Erwin Road onto Pickett road because it is a gravel road. Barry Jacobs
67 and Ellen Reckhow would like LPA staff to discuss with NCDOT whether Pickett Road could be closed
68 now that Randolph Road has become a safer alternative to accessing Erwin Road. Ellen Reckhow stated

69 that because Pickett road is in both Durham and Orange counties, the MPO is the logical planning
70 agency to address this concern with NCDOT.

71 Barry Jacobs requested that LPA staff to do some background study on toll roads and how they
72 are used and affect municipalities like DCHC MPO. Barry Jacobs was interested in community impact and
73 usability issues. Barry Jacobs requested that this discussion be scheduled on the September MPO
74 Agenda.

75 This Informational Report was received and filed.

76 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

77 **6. Approval of May 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

78 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there was any discussion on the May 11, 2016 MPO Board
79 meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes made by Ellen Reckhow and seconded by Barry
80 Jacobs. The motion carried unanimously.

81 **ACTION ITEMS:**

82 **7. Trenton Road Stormwater Update**
83 **Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5**

84 Richard Hancock gave an update on what NCDOT Division 5 has been able to determine
85 regarding the Trenton Road location near I-40. The initial assessment determined that there is a
86 section of drainage pipe that is 30" wide instead of the prescribed 60" width, and this could be the root
87 cause of the flooding problem. Richard Hancock reported that Division 5 is evaluating the area and
88 working on a solution and project timeline to get the problem resolved. Debbie McCarthy, Farrington
89 HARP, was invited to speak after the Division 5 update by Chair Steve Schewel. Debbie McCarthy
90 commented that when the Trenton Road repairs are implemented, her community would like the
91 repairs to be coordinated with City /County of Durham Public Works. Ms. McCarthy pointed out that
92 there is potential for a new problem to be created by the diverted runoff near Leigh Farm Road if
93 repairs are made only to alleviate the flooding at Trenton Road and I-40. Steve Schewel asked that

94 NCDOT Division 5 keep City and County of Durham planning involved in the repair process to manage
95 this concern.

96 Debbie McCarthy also noted that there is a problem on Guess Road. Richard Hancock stated
97 that this was not being monitored at this time, but he would look into the issue.

98 This Informational Report was received and filed.

99

100 **8. Update on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Project**

101 **Patrick McDonough Go Triangle**

102 **Geoff Green, Go Triangle**

103

104 Patrick McDonough presented a quarterly update on Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project.

105 The presentation covered Engineering Refinements Updates, Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

106 Grant Progress, and other information. Patrick McDonough highlighted those projects that have the

107 highest profile, save money, or were in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

108 Projects slated for finalized decisions are University Drive alignment refinements, Garrett Road
109 Interchange Project, and NCDOT project U-5774 which covers NC 54 from 15/501 to NC 55. Also up for
110 consideration are the bike/ped access elements that are going to set up near alignment stations.

111 The University Drive Refinements have been identified as moving alignment from mid-roadway
112 to the Southside, which will move the station closer to development and reduces traffic conflicts,
113 saving money. Reevaluation of the impacts of this refinement are underway and will be put out for
114 public involvement input in early fall.

115 The Garrett Road Interchange work will be coordinated with Light Rail projects. To accomplish
116 this, GoTriangle and NCDOT are coordinating designs and D-O LRT already has National Environmental
117 Policy Act (NEPA) clearance and would be starting construction during 2020 - 2026 timeframe.

118 Project U-5774 which encompasses NC 54 from 15/501 to NC 55: NCDOT will have a scoping
119 meeting June 20th with D-O LRT participation. It is expected that DCHC MPO, Durham, and Chapel Hill
120 Planning staff will also be part of the "Multimodal 54" initiative organized by GoTriangle / RTA.

121 Potential bus stops and pedestrian / bike planning projects in the D-O LRT Corridor
122 were discussed with Durham Transportation Staff. A design for continued multi-use path from Barbee
123 Chapel Road to Downing Creek Parkway was proposed. Improvements to an existing path from Alston
124 Ave to Bryant Bridge were discussed. Bike lanes and sidewalks were discussed on new streets in Leigh
125 Village.

126 Patrick McDonough stated that 3 of 7 proposals received for TOD grants will be selected for
127 award in July 2016. Future update for DOLRT will include analysis of additional station proposals raised
128 in DEIS comments, Rail Operations Maintenance Facility (ROMF) design and work refinements, and
129 public involvement results.

130 Presentation slides are listed here: [http://www.dchcmo.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?](http://www.dchcmo.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=29770)
131 [BlobID=29770](http://www.dchcmo.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=29770)

132 Lydia Lavelle commented that it was good to hear current progress and stated that there was a
133 concern that current caps on State funding for D-O LRT may affect local funding as time progresses.
134 Lydia Lavelle asked if the State funding caps will affect D-O LRT and Patrick McDonough stated that this
135 could affect project timelines. Ellen Reckhow stated that the current level of State funding could have
136 an effect of holding up a FTA funding petition by Durham County, if funding caps stay in place. Barry
137 Jacobs said that the Hillsborough passenger station will also be affected by the State funding cap even
138 though Hillsborough approved the \$.015 tax for the construction of the station.

139 David Bonk asked if there were other projects considered for coordination, specifically
140 coordination of 15-501 / Manning Drive interchange. Patrick McDonough stated that other projects
141 are being identified for coordination and that the 15-501 / Manning Drive interchange was one of
142 them.

143 Steve Schewel asked if future Station Alignment projects were coming up that they be part of
144 the next update. Patrick McDonough stated that this information would be included.

145 This Informational Report was received and filed.

146 **9. Update on the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Project**
147 **Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5**

148
149 Richard Hancock gave an update on the Old Durham - Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian
150 project. Clearing and utility relocation is underway, with estimated construction costs now between
151 \$5.1 and \$5.35 million. Construction is still on track to begin in September 2016.

152 The Chapel Hill section of the project is only in the right of way acquisitions phase. Richard
153 Hancock stated that this part of the project is already over budget based on the cost of acquiring right
154 of ways.

155 This Informational Report was received and filed.

156 **10. Public Hearing and Approval of SPOT P4.0 Regional Impact Category Project Priorities and Local**
157 **Input Points**
158 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

159
160 Lindsay Smart introduced this item and Chair Steve Schewel opened the floor for Public
161 Hearing. There was no activity or request for public hearing during this time. Lindsay Smart explained
162 that this agenda item contained minor point revisions to better allocate resources based on priorities
163 noted in the most recent studies. Lindsay Smart also noted that a last minute item was added for
164 support of the purchase of Piedmont Service passenger cars that service the route between Charlotte
165 and Raleigh.

166 Lindsay Smart stated that although minor adjustments were made to point allocations, they
167 were done to help manage projects that have higher priorities and allow them to become eligible for
168 funding. The funding approvals are needed at this meeting to meet the July 29, 2016 deadline for
169 submitting points to NCDOT.

170 After this meeting the point assignments will be reassessed by LPA staff to help identify and
171 track the projects that should be getting funded.

172 A motion was proposed by Ellen Reckhow to approve the following actions recommended by
173 the Technical Committee.

174 1. The MPO Board approve the revised list of Regional Impact category project priorities as shown
175 in the attachment.

176 2. The MPO Board authorize the TC and the Technical Subcommittee to meet again later in June
177 and/or possibly early July to make any minor adjustments to the assignment of Local Input Points, per
178 the adopted MPO Methodology, to only assign the needed number of points to each project to get the
179 project funded.

180 3. The MPO Board authorize the TC and the Technical Subcommittee to assign Local Input Points
181 to the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT), if there is an opportunity to assign Local Input
182 Points to the project and once again reaffirm that the project is one of the highest priority projects in
183 the Regional Impact category by placing the maximum number of allowable points on the D-O LRT
184 project. The motion was seconded by Jim Crawford and passed unanimously.

185 **11. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant - FFY2015**
186 **and FFY2016 Program of Projects**
187 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

188
189 Meg Scully presented information on the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
190 Grants. The Board was asked to approve the program of Projects that conform to Section 5310
191 guidelines. A motion was made by Barry Jacobs and seconded by Ellen Reckhow to approve the
192 Program of Projects and it passed unanimously.

193 **12. Summary of Highway vs. Non-Highway Funding Programmed in the FY2016-2025 TIP Lindsay**
194 **Smart, LPA Staff**

195
196 Lindsay Smart gave a presentation and printout of the funding breakdown of projects in the
197 2016-2025 TIP. The report shows a breakdown of highway and non-highway projects. Ellen Reckhow
198 stated that she observed that in Europe there already a 50/50 distribution of highway/non-highway
199 modes of transportation. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO is moving towards a 50/50 distribution of

200 project funding. There was a discussion by Chair Steve Schewel, Damon Seils, and Ellen Reckhow about
201 how DCHC MPO compares with other MPO in North Carolina and how highway/non-highway funding
202 distribution is currently managed within the legislative constraints of North Carolina. Ellen Reckhow
203 stated that she would also like to see what other MPO's of comparable area and population are doing
204 in the US.

205 Another discussion was started addressing the inconsistencies that sometimes come up now
206 that new legislation is in place for Fast Act and MAP 21 funding guidelines. Felix Nwoko suggested that
207 FHWA staff member Eddie Dancausse [present at meeting] could look into giving a presentation on
208 these funding guidelines to help DCHC MPO Board better understand how future projects will get
209 funded.

210 There was a discussion about information exchanges with other MPOs close to DCHC MPO area
211 by Ellen Reckhow, Damon Seils, Lydia Lavelle, and Chair Steve Schewel with a consensus that Board
212 members will benefit from more information. To help facilitate information exchanges, Felix Nwoko
213 suggested that a joint meeting with CAMPO could be planned in November on the 5th Wednesday.
214 This Informational Report was received and filed.

215 **13. Directives to Staff: Consideration of MPO Name Change**
216 **Meg Scully/Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

217
218 Meg Scully gave a presentation on what has to be considered for a Name Change of the DCHC

219 MPO. The presentation is listed here:

220 <http://www.dchcmpo.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=29771>

221 The Technical Committee has recommended that for technical purposes the name not be
222 changed at this time but to discuss the issue again after the next Census with mandatory consideration
223 of re-designation. Barry Jacobs agreed with this recommendation. Chair Steve Schewel commented
224 that he wanted to see a new logo with graphics. Ellen Reckhow commented that a new tag line be
225 added to the logo with the word transportation in it.

226 This Informational Report was received and filed.

227 **REPORTS:**

228 **8. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**
229 **Steve Schewel, DCHC MPO Board Chair**

230 Chair Steve Schewel stated there was no report from the Chair

231 **9. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**
232 **David Bonk, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

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

234 **10. Reports from LPA Staff**
235 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

236 There was no additional report from the DCHC MPO LPA staff.

237 **11. NCDOT Reports:**

238 NCDOT reports are currently still being transcribed.

239

240 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

242 **ADJOURNMENT:**

243 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

244 11:03 am.