

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

2 **May 11, 2022**

3 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

4 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on May 11,  
5 2022, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

6	Jenn Weaver (Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
7	Karen Howard (Vice Chair)	Chatham County
8	Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
9	Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
10	Leonardo Williams (Member)	City of Durham
11	Javiera Caballero (Member)	City of Durham
12	Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
13	Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
14	Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
15	Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
16	Adam Searing (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
17	Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
18	Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
19	Lisa Mathis (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
20	Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
21	Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
22	Tom Altieri	Orange County
23	Josh Mayo	Chapel Hill Planning
24	Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
25	Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit
26	Nick Pittman	Chapel Hill Transit
27	Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
28	Brandon Dawson	Chatham County
29	Bill Judge	City of Durham
30	Brian Taylor	City of Durham
31	Sean Egan	City of Durham
32	Evian Patterson	City of Durham
33	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Government
34	Matt Day	Triangle J Council of Government
35	Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
36	Meg Scully	GoTriangle
37	Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
38	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
39	Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 5
40	Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
41	Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7

42	Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
43	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
44	Jeron Monroe	NCDOT Division 8
45	Scott Walston	NCDOT TPD
46	Nick Morrison	NCDOT IMD
47	Brian Mayhew	NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit
48	Brian Murphy	NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit
49	John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit
50	Jacob Rigg	Regional Transportation Alliance
51	Adam Howell	Atkins
52	Kristen Brookshire	Durham Public Schools
53	Keith Chadwell	City of Durham
54	Dave Connelly	Resident
55	Heidi Perov	Resident
56	Edward Harrison	Resident
57	Brian Rhodes	Resident
58	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
59	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO/City of Durham
60	Kayla Peloquin	DCHC MPO
61	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO
62	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
63	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO

64 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

65 **1. Roll Call**

66 Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate  
 67 Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated above.  
 68 Damon Seils made a motion that the Board Members enter a closed session to discuss a personnel  
 69 matter. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

70 After the closed session, the Board Members re-entered the general Board meeting and it was  
 71 determined that a quorum was present.

72 **PRELIMINARIES:**

73 **2. Ethics Reminder**

74 Chair Jenn Weaver pointed out the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known  
 75 conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there  
 76 were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts  
 77 identified by MPO Board Members.

78 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

79 Aaron Cain said two items will be added to the consent agenda, the first is a letter of support  
 80 for the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) Connected Region grant and the second is a letter of  
 81 support for the City of Durham 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities grant.

82 **4. Public Comments**

83 There were no public comments.

84 **5. Directives to Staff**

85 Chair Jenn Weaver said the directive regarding a safety plan will be discussed at this meeting.

86 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

87 **6. Approval of the April 13, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**

88 Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

89 **6A. TJCOG Letter of Support for Connected Region Project**

90 Lee Worsley, TJCOG

91 **6B. City of Durham Letter of Support for 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities Program**

92 Evian Patterson, City of Durham

93 Aaron Cain noted a minor change to the April 13, 2022 minutes suggested by Wendy Jacobs.

94 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Karen Howard  
 95 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

96 **ACTION ITEMS:**

97 **7. Triangle Bikeway Study**

98 Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

99 Dale McKeel said a presentation was given on the Triangle Bikeway in April 2022 and the public  
100 comments received so far are included in the attachments. Dale McKeel noted that Wake County has  
101 submitted a request for Congressional Community Project Funding to begin design of the bikeway from  
102 Raleigh to the Research Triangle Park, and the MPO sent a letter of support for that application.

103 Chair Jenn Weaver opened the public hearing. There were no requests to speak. Chair Jenn  
104 Weaver closed the public hearing.

105 Wendy Jacobs asked how the public comments will be followed-up on. Dale McKeel said all  
106 public comments and responses will be included in the agenda packet next month and comments will be  
107 forwarded to the Triangle Bikeway Advisory Committee as well.

108 **8. Durham and Orange Transit Governance Study Update**  
109 **Adam Howell, Atkins**

110 Adam Howell introduced the Durham and Orange Counties Transit Plan Governance Study that  
111 aims to determine an operationally efficient governance structure and form new levels of accountability.  
112 Adam Howell summarized the study process, including several iterations of interviews, workshops, and  
113 alternatives development. Adam Howell described the existing membership and voting structures of the  
114 Staff Working Groups (SWGs), and how consensus was achieved at the workshops. Adam Howell said  
115 that although the signatories to the Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) will remain the same, there is a  
116 recommendation to extend invitations to additional voting and non-voting members to participate in  
117 the SWGs. Adam Howell said consensus was reached on the multi-year vision plan and the annual work  
118 programs, however the membership and associated voting structures require further refinement.

119 Michael Parker stated the following: 1) it would be helpful to understand what the enabling  
120 legislation requires and what cannot be changed, 2) asked how the decision will be made between the  
121 two different voting structures proposed for Orange County, and 3) asked if there is any guidance in the  
122 study on reporting information back to the counties on the Tax District Administration (TDA). Adam  
123 Howell responded that 1) he will work with Aaron Cain to distribute more information on what the

124 enabling legislation does and does not allow, 2) a draft ILA with two alternative sections on voting  
125 structure will be presented for Orange County and legal counsel to make a decision on, and 3) there are  
126 already fairly detailed reporting requirements built into the ILA and additional guidance may be added.  
127 Michael Parker asked what the timeline is for wrapping up the study. Adam Howell said that June 30,  
128 2022 has been proposed as an initial deadline for the ILA, although negotiations may require more time.

129         Javiera Caballero stated that the recommendations for Orange County are more in line with  
130 what the City of Durham was anticipating in terms of full participation and voting on the SWG. Javiera  
131 Caballero stated she would not vote to approve the current recommendation that gives the City of  
132 Durham one vote on the SWG. Javiera Caballero asked why the City of Durham is not a party to the ILA,  
133 and expressed concern that the City of Durham will not be a full partner for the upcoming decisions that  
134 need to be made regarding commuter rail, similar to when the Durham-Orange light rail project was  
135 being planned. Adam Howell said that in other counties, the votes are allocated differently due to the  
136 higher volume of jurisdictions within that county. Adam Howell recognized that the City of Durham  
137 bears responsibility in implementing elements of the transit plan, although all three signatories to the  
138 ILA have already agreed that it was fair for the City of Durham to get one vote as they currently do not  
139 have a vote.

140         Wendy Jacobs said the Durham County Board of Commissioners received this presentation at a  
141 recent work session and there was support for the recommendations in the study that are anticipated to  
142 improve accountability, transparency, and clarity. Wendy Jacobs highlighted what Michael Parker said  
143 about reporting back to governing bodies and added the need to report to residents as well. Javiera  
144 Caballero asked if there are limits in the enabling legislation that do not allow the City of Durham to be a  
145 full partner. Aaron Cain said the MPO is not opposed to the City of Durham having equal voting  
146 membership on the SWG, but the other two ILA signatories were opposed. Aaron Cain said he is able to

147 facilitate a conversation between the City of Durham and Durham County elected officials on these  
148 topics. Chair Jenn Weaver said that is a great idea and hopes all of these issues can be worked out.

149 Jamezetta Bedford said the Orange County Board of Commissioners received this presentation  
150 recently and the commissioners all prefer the first alternatives that includes the towns and transit  
151 operators as voting members on the SWG to improve collaboration. Leonardo Williams agreed with  
152 Javiera Caballero. There was a discussion on the tight timeline for when this meeting amongst elected  
153 officials needs to occur prior to the May 26, 2022 SWG meeting. Chair Jenn Weaver thanked Adam  
154 Howell and the Atkins team for all of their work on the Governance Study.

155 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the Board.

156 **9. FY23 Durham and Orange Transit Work Programs and Material Changes to the Durham County**  
157 **Transit Plan**

158 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

159 Aaron Cain shared the purpose of the FY23 Transit Work Programs that serve as an annual  
160 budget for the county transit tax funds and reviewed the transit improvements that are already being  
161 implemented, as well as new projects slated for FY23 in Durham and Orange counties. Aaron Cain  
162 discussed the proposed budget for each county. Aaron Cain said the public comment period is coming to  
163 an end and all comments will be available soon. Aaron Cain stated the proposed material changes to the  
164 Durham Transit Plan, which must be approved by all three current ILA signatories. Aaron Cain stated the  
165 next steps for the FY23 Work Programs and consideration of approval of the material changes to the  
166 Durham Transit Plan.

167 Michael Parker asked what defines a material change. Aaron Cain said the current ILA defines a  
168 material change for bus service as a change of \$300,000 in Orange County and \$500,000 in Durham  
169 County from the adopted Transit Plan. Wendy Jacobs said this discussion highlights the importance of  
170 the Governance Study because the work programs are only approved by the GoTriangle Board of  
171 Trustees and the study recommends changing that. There was a discussion on the main points of

172 contention between the City of Durham and Durham County that were outlined in a memo endorsed by  
173 the Durham County Board of Commissioners. Ellen Beckmann provided more details on the issues and  
174 said the overall point of the memo is that the City of Durham and Durham County should meet to  
175 discuss a funding agreement. Aaron Cain outlined the rest of the schedule for the FY23 Work Programs.  
176 There was a discussion on the bus speed and reliability improvements. There was consensus that the  
177 joint City of Durham and Durham County meeting should be scheduled as soon as possible, ideally prior  
178 to the May 26, 2022 SWG meetings.

179 This item was for discussion purposes; no further action was required by the Board.

180 **10. Roadway Safety**

181 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

182 **Brian Mayhew, NCDOT**

183 **Brian Murphy, NCDOT**

184 **John Grant, NCDOT**

185 Dale McKeel introduced Brian Murphy, Brian Mayhew, and John Grant with the Traffic Safety  
186 Unit of NCDOT. Brian Mayhew introduced the safety data trends and performance measures as well as  
187 the NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan that aims to reduce all fatalities and serious injuries by half by  
188 2035 and move towards zero by 2050. Brian Mayhew shared graphs of population, Vehicle Miles  
189 Traveled (VMT), fatalities and serious injuries for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and reported  
190 crashes statewide. Brian Mayhew described the trends and stated that fatalities have been trending  
191 upwards since 2011.

192 Brian Murphy discussed the same performance measures for the DCHC MPO region compared  
193 to statewide trends. Brian Murphy reviewed the fatalities and serious injuries that involve an unbelted  
194 person in a vehicle, and said he is concerned at that increasing trend. Brian Murphy shared a breakdown  
195 of fatalities by municipality and rural areas within DCHC MPO. Brian Murphy shared background  
196 information on the requirements for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and how the  
197 targets were developed. Brian Murphy said the targets are up to each state and MPO, and while most

198 MPOs adopt the state methodology, an MPO can develop their own targets. Brian Murphy said the  
199 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assesses the safety performance measures and determines  
200 whether a state DOT has met the targets or not. Brian Murphy said FHWA assessed that NC has not met  
201 or made significant progress toward achieving its safety performance targets in 2021. Brian Murphy  
202 shared various traffic safety data dashboards available online.

203 Brian Mayhew presented the NCDOT safety and mobility programs that contain three project  
204 funding sources and how they are evaluated through a cost-benefit ratio. Brian Mayhew discussed the  
205 pedestrian safety corridor study process on NC 54 in Chapel Hill and Carrboro that was used to develop  
206 recommendations. John Grant described one successful operations project along NC 98 (Holloway  
207 Street) that had high crash rates, and the recommendations were to limit access at one intersection and  
208 signalize a different intersection.

209 Chair Jenn Weaver said the MPO is continually investigating ways to make significant changes to  
210 meet its safety goals. Damon Seils said there were great examples in the presentation of how data has  
211 been used to inform funding decisions and said he is interested in discussing a more systemic approach  
212 for avoiding fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways and how the MPO and NCDOT can plan  
213 ahead to meet the safety standards. Wendy Jacobs agreed with Damon Seils and said the data is  
214 alarming. Wendy Jacobs asked what caused the decline in fatalities from 2007-2011. Wendy Jacobs said  
215 she would like to further discuss how to address this crisis. Wendy Jacobs said the Safe Streets for All  
216 program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) presents some opportunities. Wendy Jacobs asked if  
217 there is data available on how the MPO ranks nationally for fatalities and serious injuries.

218 Brian Mayhew said this is a complex area of study that doesn't necessarily have direct  
219 correlations, and the 2007-2011 downward trend of fatalities and serious injuries was likely due to the  
220 recession. Brian Mayhew said there is increased attention at the federal level on improving design  
221 standards. Lisa Mathis asked if there is data to the number of cell phones used that are leading to

222 distracted driving and walking. Brian Mayhew said that although there is no granular data, people are  
 223 using cell phones continuously while driving and our society has become incredibly distracted. Brian  
 224 Mayhew said that some states have passed rigorous laws on cell phone use while driving, but they are  
 225 extremely difficult to enforce. Aaron Cain noted an upcoming meeting to coordinate an MPO-wide  
 226 application to the Safe Streets for All program. Brian Mayhew encouraged the MPO to pursue the grant  
 227 and said NCDOT is willing to assist with data and other support. Chair Jenn Weaver thanked the  
 228 presenters for their time and tied this conversation back to the consideration of safety in the  
 229 development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

230 This item was for discussion purposes; no further action was required by the Board.  
 231

232 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

233 **11. IJA Standing Update**

234 **Marriel Klein, LPA Staff**

235

236 **12. Draft FY2024-2033 STIP**

237 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

238 Chair Jenn Weaver encouraged Board members to attend the NCDOT FY2024-2033 State  
 239 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) webinar on May 17, 2022 hosted by NCDOT. Aaron Cain  
 240 said MPO staff will provide a presentation to the Technical Committee and MPO Board at the May and  
 241 June meetings.

242 **REPORTS:**

243 **13. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

244 **Jenn Weaver, Board Chair**

245 Chair Jenn Weaver said it was emphasized to attendees of the Regional Transportation Alliance  
 246 (RTA) tour in March 2022 that a regional transportation plan was critical to the transportation successes  
 247 in South Florida. Chair Jenn Weaver said TJCOG has agreed to spearhead this effort for the Triangle and

248 Lee Worsley with TJCOG hosted an initial regional meeting to discuss how to proceed with a regional  
249 transportation plan.

250 **14. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**  
251 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

252 Ellen Beckmann said the April TC meeting was cancelled and had no report.

253 **15. Report from LPA Staff**

254 Aaron Cain stated that once the NC State of Emergency is lifted the Board members will have  
255 to be present in person to count for the quorum. Aaron Cain said Board members should plan on being  
256 in person at Durham City Hall for the August Board meeting and MPO staff is investigating a hybrid  
257 option.

258 Wendy Jacobs mentioned the letter from Chris Lukasina on behalf of the NC Association of  
259 MPOs (NCAMPO) on next steps for the FY2024-2033 STIP that stated concerns over the STIP  
260 development process. Wendy Jacobs asked what the next steps are for the draft STIP development and  
261 said that staff should engage with NCDOT division engineers throughout this process. Wendy Jacobs  
262 asked if the scope of work for the corridor studies (US 70 and US 15-501) will be brought before the  
263 Board so there can be discussion on alignment with the 2050 MTP. Aaron Cain the contract for the US  
264 70 study will be brought before Durham City Council on May 16, 2022. Aaron Cain said MPO staff is still  
265 discussing the US 15-501 study.

266 **16. NCDOT Reports**  
267 **Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

268 Lisa Mathis reported on the Build NC bonds closing May 19, 2022, the proceeds of which will be  
269 used to continue delivering projects and improving infrastructure statewide. Lisa Mathis said the spring  
270 litter sweep has ended and nearly 800,000 pounds of trash were collected. Lisa Mathis said the MPO is  
271 an important conduit through which our communities can access resources in the Infrastructure  
272 Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Lisa Mathis said the Brookings Federal Infrastructure Hub is a useful

273 resource for learning more about IJA. Lisa Mathis said NCDOT is available to provide technical  
274 assistance and letters of support for grant applications.

275 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT**

276 Brandon Jones said the East End Connector will be completed soon and a ribbon cutting  
277 ceremony will be held on June 30, 2022. Brandon Jones referenced an earlier question regarding  
278 coordination efforts with division engineers to determine swaps for the draft STIP. Wendy Jacobs said  
279 the letter from NCAMPO recommends that division engineers or regional STIP unit staff provide  
280 presentations to MPO Boards. Aaron Cain said that is a concern shared by many MPOs, although DCHC  
281 MPO staff are willing to provide the presentations while NCDOT division staff will be present to answer  
282 questions. Brandon Jones said much collaboration is needed to finalize the draft STIP and swaps must be  
283 finalized by September 30, 2022.

284 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT**

285 Pat Wilson said the Franklin Street repaving in Carrboro will begin May 23, 2022. Pam  
286 Hemminger thanked Pat Wilson for the work on this project and stated that message boards were a  
287 great way to disseminate information to residents on the Estes Road project.

288 **Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT**

289 Bryan Kluchar said the initial draft STIP only provides the Chatham County US 15-501 project with  
290 preliminary engineering funding and the project must be rescored in Prioritization 7.0, although there is a  
291 swap opportunity.

292 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT**

293 Scott Walston said the NC statewide freight multimodal plan update forums will occur on May  
294 17, 2022 and May 19, 2022.

295 **John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

296 John Grant had no report.

297 **Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT**

298 Nick Morrison said the FY22 multimodal planning grant program application closed on May 9,  
299 2022, and IMD staff hopes to send out award letters out at the end of the summer. Nick Morrison said  
300 the Watch For Me NC program is hosting five free virtual workshops on bicycle and pedestrian topics  
301 and more information is available at [www.watchformenc.com](http://www.watchformenc.com).

302 **ADJOURNMENT:**

303 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at  
304 11:37 a.m.