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DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

March 27, 2019

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on March 27, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Nish Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Zach Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Cooperative Extension
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka (Member)	University of North Carolina
Tim Brock (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Pat Wilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
Laura Woods (Alternate)	Durham City/Council Planning
Sara Young (Alternate)	Durham City/County Planning
Harmon Crutchfield (Alternate)	City of Durham Transportation
Patrick McDonough (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Cy Stober	City of Mebane
Josh Hurst	Clark Nexsen
Becky McDonnell	Town of Chapel Hill
Ellis Caton	Raleigh/Durham Airport Authority
Rachel Stair	Raleigh/Durham Airport Authority
Caitlyn Meyer	Geodecisions
Wannetta Mallette	BGMPO

Quorum Count: 16 of 31 Voting Members

44 Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting
45 Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified and
46 are indicated above. Chair Nish Trivedi reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being
47 circulated.

48 **PRELIMINARIES:**

49 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

50 Dale McKeel requested to add Safe Routes to School Grant as agenda item #11a.

51 **3. Public Comments**

52 There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

53 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

54 **4. Approval of February 27, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

55 There was no further discussion of the February 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

56 **5. Landscaping and Lighting of Roundabouts**

57 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

58 Aaron Cain stated that that the MPO Board requested staff to develop a report to address
59 landscaping and lighting issues at roundabouts within the DCHC MPO jurisdiction, which will go to the
60 MPO Board on their March 13 meeting.

61 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chance Mullis seconded the
62 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

63 **ACTION ITEMS:**

64 **6. Presentation on SPOT 6**

65 **Jason Schronce, PE, NCDOT**

66 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

67

68 Jason Schronce introduced his presentation of Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT)

69 6. Jason Schronce stated that Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law prioritizes capital projects

70 across all modes of transportation. Jason Schronce added that State projects receive 40% of funds;

71 Regional projects receive 30% of funds; and Division projects receive 30% of funds. Jason Schronce noted
72 that funding can cascade from the State tier to the Regional tier, and funding at the Regional tier can
73 cascade to the Division tier. Jason Schronce stated that the SPOT 6 workgroup consists of four MPO
74 members and four RPO members. Jason Schronce continued that the workgroup also includes a member
75 from each of the following groups: Metro Mayors, League of Municipalities, Regional Council of
76 Governments, and Association of County Commissioners. Jason Schronce also stated that there are 12
77 North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) representatives as well to match the 12 members
78 listed above. Geoff Green asked if there are any transit advisory representatives involved in the working
79 group. Jason Schronce responded that Julie White, NCDOT Deputy Director of Multimodal Transportation,
80 is present at the workgroup. Jason Schronce and Aaron Cain discussed how freight data is accounted for in
81 the SPOT 6 process.

82 Jason Schronce explained that highway criteria is weighted 60% for existing conditions on the
83 roadway, and 40% for benefits of the project. Jason Schronce discussed the possibility of changing the
84 weight for the highway criteria, but stated that it is probably similar to that of P5.0. Jason Schronce
85 responded to a question by Aaron Cain by explaining that Regional and Division weights can be changed if
86 all MPOs, RPOs, and Divisions within that certain Region or Division, respectively, are in agreement with
87 the change.

88 Jason Schronce discussed the relationship between the SPOT and State Transportation
89 Improvement Program (STIP) offices. Jason Schronce stated that projects in the first five years of the State
90 STIP are in the delivery phase, and projects in the second five years are in the developmental phase. Jason
91 Schronce elaborated that projects that are in the delivery phase are committed projects and are not
92 required to be resubmitted for prioritization and is updated every two years. Jason Schronce then
93 discussed the differences between the Strategic Transportation Improvement (STI) law and STIP, and how
94 the schedule of both processes overlap.

95 Jason Schronce discussed several issues that the P6.0 working group is currently addressing, but
96 have not been approved by the Board of Transportation. Jason Schronce noted that up to 500 points could
97 be flexed between Region and Division projects, although the maximum point possibility per project will
98 remain at 100 points. Jason Schronce stated that extending the committed window from five to six years
99 might occur for P6.0. Jason Schronce stated that in P6.0 there will be two sets of default weights for
100 highway projects; one for mobility projects and one for modernization projects. Jason Schronce
101 announced that there will be automated scoring for bicycle and pedestrian (bike/ped) projects via Project
102 Atlas. Zach Hallock asked how bike/ped projects are scored. Jason Schronce also noted that the safety
103 benefit factors will also be updated. Jason Schronce and Chair Nish Trivedi discussed construction
104 projects, and the practice of bundling projects together for scoring.

105 John Hodges-Copple proposed that the changes for SPOT 6 include more transparency, data
106 source standardization, better means of addressing multimodal transportation, and how to address dual
107 benefits in the technical process. Jason Schronce responded that Hannah Cockburn is developing the
108 means to quantify bike/ped benefits to be an aspect of the benefit cost equation. Dale McKeel and Jason
109 Schronce discussed multimodal options for cross street sections and highway projects, as well as how
110 funding would be addressed.

111 Geoff Green and expressed concern over funding if committed projects are moved from five to six
112 years. Jason Schronce responded that a committee was formed that reviews projects where costs have
113 increased. Aaron Cain and Jason Schronce discussed when the cost estimation tool will be released. Geoff
114 Green requested better clarity and communication for items that are considered to be from state
115 legislation as opposed to NCDOT regulation.

116 **7. Upgrades to DCHC MPO TIP Database**
117 **Caitlyn Meyer, Gannett Fleming/Geodecisions**
118 **Durmus Cesur, LPA Staff**
119 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

120

121 Caitlyn Meyer introduced her presentation about Upgrades to the DCHC MPO Transportation
122 Improvement Program (TIP) Database. Caitlyn Meyer stated that the database update has already
123 occurred and is able to be accessed. Caitlyn Meyer stated that one of the goals of the project is to increase
124 transparency across the entire project funding process. Caitlyn Meyer described that Phase One of the
125 database update is to increase performance, streamline the interface, and view the Comprehensive
126 Transportation Plan (CTP), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and the TIP projects all in one place.
127 Caitlyn Meyer added that the ability to search historically for past projects is available only for
128 administrators.

129 Caitlyn Meyer stated that Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the DCHC MPO TIP database update are
130 upcoming. Caitlyn Meyer continued that there will be a scoring tool added and an application added to
131 increase workflow. Caitlyn Meyer stated that a dynamic search function will also be added. John Hodges-
132 Copple and Caitlyn Meyer discussed having some historic information available to not only the
133 administrator, but to the general public as well. John Hodges-Copple and Caitlyn Meyer also discussed
134 public access to safety data. Caitlyn Meyer stated that adding layers to the maps will also be possible. Chair
135 Nish Trivedi and Caitlyn Meyer discussed future Orange County database maintenance.

136 **8. NC Moves 2050**
137 **Nastasha Earle-Young, NCDOT**

138 Nastasha Earle-Young stated that NC Moves 2050 is a long-range transportation plan that began
139 in August 2018 and will conclude in August 2020. Nastasha Earle-Young explained that NC Moves 2050 is
140 a four step plan that includes current assessment, uncertainties, possible futures, and a plan of action.
141 Nastasha Earle-Young stated that there continues to be social media outreach and public involvement
142 outreach, which includes a public survey at ncdot.gov/ncmoves. Nastasha Earle-Young stated that there
143 are eight white papers planned on topics including demographics, economy, tourism, partnership,
144 funding, technology, security, and resiliency.

145 John Hodges-Copple suggested that the three regions of the Piedmont, Triad, and Charlotte
146 meet to discuss common goals and planning, as well as to discuss funding and the economy. John
147 Hodges-Copple also stated that it is important to note that future technology often requires an
148 extended period of time to fully develop and implement, and that it could create situations of inequity
149 between people of different economic statuses. Geoff Green stated that the concept of land use is
150 important to be aware of when discussing the future of the state.

151 **9. Triangle Regional Freight Plan**
152 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

153 Aaron Cain stated that the Triangle Regional Freight Plan was previously presented before the
154 TC Board and the MPO Board, and the MPO Board provided comments to be addressed in an updated
155 Freight Plan before it would be approved. Aaron Cain stated at the previous MPO Board meeting there
156 were Board Members who made comments about lack of specificity of non-freight uses, and an MPO
157 Board Member who requested the freight plan address the concept of resiliency. Aaron Cain added that
158 he is presenting for Andy Henry who is unable to attend.

159 Aaron Cain stated that this is this first freight plan for the Triangle region, and it is an effort
160 between DCHC MPO, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and NCDOT. Aaron
161 Cain added that there is not funding within the SPOT process that is allocated for freight. Chair Nish
162 Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed how freight impacts the scores of highway projects in the SPOT
163 process. Aaron Cain stated that the Freight Plan is required by the Fixing America's Surface
164 Transportation (FAST) Act. Aaron Cain added that there are changes to certain freight corridors only
165 within Durham. Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed the procedure for updates to the freight
166 plan. John Hodges-Copple and Aaron Cain discussed the Gregson Street/Duke Street freight corridor.

167 John Hodges Copple suggested adding the following language to the Freight Plan to address the
168 DCHC MPO's expectations for the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) rail corridor:

169 “Freight investments along the NCRH should clearly demonstrate how they
 170 accommodate the NCRH’s 4-track footprint, that the investments are the
 171 most cost-effective use of taxpayer money for freight and passenger rail
 172 service in adopted NCDOT and MPO Plans, and briefly address future
 173 investments that would likely need to be made for adopted NCDOT and
 174 MPO plans to be implemented.”

175
 176 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve of the freight plan as amended with the language
 177 included above. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

178 **10. NC 54 West Corridor Study - Phase Two Update**

179 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

180 Aaron Cain stated that Phase Two of the NC 54 West Corridor study was planned at the request
 181 of the MPO Board to address unresolved issues. Aaron Cain added that Phase Two is scheduled to be
 182 completed in June 2019. Aaron Cain added that the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning
 183 Organization (BGMPO) and Triangle Area Rural Transportation Planning Organization (TARPO) were
 184 likely to continue planning with only the original phase of the study.

185 Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed transit aspects of Phase Two and possibly further
 186 studies of transit outside of the DCHC MPO jurisdiction. Mo Devlin and Aaron Cain discussed how a
 187 separate study of NC 54 from Fayetteville Road to Manning Drive could be incorporated into Phase Two
 188 of the NC 54 Corridor Study. Cy Stober and Aaron Cain discussed how public outreach for Phase Two
 189 would be located within the DCHC jurisdiction. Cy Stober asked if there would be any future
 190 consideration of Park and Ride stations along the 54 Corridor outside of the DCHC MPO jurisdiction.
 191 Aaron Cain responded that the MPO Board did not request further study of that aspect. Chair Nish
 192 Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed the possibility of future transit plan impacts on the NC 54 study.

193 **11. Amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

194 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

195 Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement
 196 Program (TIP) consists of two projects in Durham that were released for a 21-day public comment
 197 period due to the addition of more than \$1M in each project. Aaron Cain added that these two projects

198 included: EB-5703, LaSalle Street sidewalks; and EB-5715, Duke Street sidewalks. Aaron Cain stated that
 199 no public comments had been received to date, and that today is the last day for public comments.

200 Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #11 is also comprised of several projects from NCDOT,
 201 including several new statewide projects from the Public Transit Division. Aaron Cain stated that NCDOT
 202 requested to move Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for C-5183 B, Alston Avenue
 203 Sidewalks, from FY19 to FY20, which could jeopardize funding due to the pending federal CMAQ
 204 rescission. Aaron Cain stated that MPO staff recommended not to include C-5183 B in Amendment #11.
 205 Aaron Cain and John Hodges-Copple discussed that Transportation Alternative Program Direct
 206 Attributable (TAP-DA) funds are subject to rescission, and they were waiting to confirm if Transportation
 207 Alternative Program (TAP) funds were subject to rescission.

208 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment
 209 #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP, except for C-5183 B. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed
 210 unanimously.

211 **11a. Safe School Grant Application**
 212 **Dale McKeel, City of Durham/DCHC MPO**

213 Dale McKeel stated that the Safe School Grant funds projects for non-infrastructure safe routes
 214 to school. Dale McKeel stated that there have been participant agencies within the DCHC MPOs that
 215 have submitted grant proposals, therefore he requested the support of the TC to prepare a letter for
 216 approval of the MPO Board meeting at their next meeting on the April 10.

217 Geoff Green made a motion to support preparing a letter in support of the Safe School Grant
 218 applicants. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

219 **REPORTS:**

220 **12. Reports from the LPA Staff**
 221 **Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

222 Aaron Cain stated that there are vacancies for TC Members and Alternates and encouraged
223 attendees to find participants, especially within the City of Durham and Town of Chapel Hill. Aaron Cain
224 stated the verification from a County Manager, Town Manager, City Manager or Chief Executive Officer is
225 needed for verification. Geoff Green and Aaron Cain discussed further outreach for unfilled vacancies.

226 **13. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

227 Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair

228 There was no additional report from Chair Nish Trivedi.

229 **14. NCDOT Reports**

230 There was no additional report from Division 5.

231 Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there is no additional report.

232 Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that there is no additional report.

233 Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, stated that there is no additional report.

234 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

235 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

236 **16. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

237 Aaron Cain stated that the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
238 (NCAMPO) in Charlotte, NC, begins on April 24, which is on the same day as the next TC meeting.

239 **ADJOURNMENT:**

240 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
241 adjourned at 10:46 a.m.