



**DCHC MPO Board  
Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

9:00 AM

Committee Room 2nd Floor Durham City Hall

101 City Hall Plaza  
Durham, NC 27701

**1. Roll Call****2. Ethics Reminder**

It is the duty of every Board member to avoid conflicts of interest. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

[17-206](#)

**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-206\) 2017 Holiday Newsletter Vol 20 Issue 4 \(final\)\(srl\)\(11-06-1](#)

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda****4. Public Comments****5. Directives to Staff**

[17-100](#)

**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-100\) MPO Board Directives to Staff.pdf](#)

**CONSENT AGENDA****6. November 15, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

[17-199](#)

A copy of the November 15, 2017 Board meeting minutes is enclosed.

**Board Action:** Approve the minutes of the November 15, 2017 Board meeting.

**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-199\) MPO Board Meeting Minutes 11.8.17 LPA2.pdf](#)

**7. 2018 MPO Board and Technical Committee Meeting Schedule**

[17-204](#)

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

The 2018 MPO Board and Technical Committee meeting schedule is provided as an attachment.

**Board Action:** Adopt the 2018 MPO Board and Technical Committee meeting schedule.

**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-204\) TAC TCC Meetings 2018.pdf](#)

**8. FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #2** [17-194](#)**Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Amendment #2 of the FY2018 UPWP proposes to obligate Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) funds for the City of Durham Downtown Transportation Study, and to re-allocate STBG-DA funds among task codes for Durham County. The attached memorandum and resolution with table provides details.

**TC Action:** Recommended the Board approve FY18 UPWP Amendment #2.

**Board Action:** Approve the FY18 UPWP Amendment #2.

**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-194\) Memorandum FY18 UPWP Amend 2.pdf](#)  
[2017-12-13 \(17-194\) 2018 UPWP amend 2 Resolution with table.pdf](#)

**ACTION ITEMS****9. NC 54 West Corridor Study (15 minutes)** [17-201](#)**Don Bryson, VHB****Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

The NC Highway 54 corridor between Carrboro and I-85 in Graham has been the subject of discussion among neighboring jurisdictions and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) over the past several years. While this highway is expected to experience increased volume in the future due to employment growth in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area and residential growth in Alamance County, the area surrounding the corridor is primarily rural, low-density residential, has important environmental features, and is extremely popular among recreational bicyclists.

This study's objective is to determine and address the critical issues and needs along the NC 54 West corridor, mainly mobility, operational deficiencies, environmental protection, and safety for motor vehicle users, pedestrians bicyclists, and transit users. These issues and needs vary in magnitude and importance along the corridor depending on context, as the character of the urban/rural continuum also varies along the corridor. In addition to recommendations for the short- and long-term needs of automobiles in the corridor, the study will also seek to recommend appropriate and feasible accommodations for transit service along the corridor, where appropriate, and connections to and accommodations for the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian network along the corridor.

This past summer DCHC MPO, with support from NCDOT Division 7 and the City of Graham, contracted with VHB to provide consulting services to recommend solutions to these issues along the NC 54 Corridor between Carrboro and Graham. VHB representatives will provide an update on where the project currently stands and the project schedule moving forward.

**Board Action:** This item is for informational purposes only; no action is required at this time.

**10. Proposed D-O LRT Project Changes (20 minutes)**[17-195](#)**Danny Rogers, GoTriangle**

In the updates to the Durham County Transit Plan and Orange County Transit Plan approved in April 2017, all parties agreed that any additions or deletions of stations along the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Project would be subject to the approval of both county governing boards, the DCHC MPO Board, and the GoTriangle Board of Trustees (Durham County Transit Plan § 4.4.4.1, Orange County Transit Plan § 4.6.4.1). GoTriangle is requesting two actions from the DCHC MPO Board: 1) approval for a new station between Blackwell and Mangum streets in Durham, and 2) approval of proposed changes to the location of the Gateway station in Chapel Hill.

In their comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), both the City of Durham and the Durham County Board of Commissioners requested that GoTriangle carefully evaluate the feasibility of a City Center Station between Blackwell and Mangum streets along Pettigrew Street during the project's Engineering Phase. In response to these comments, in the Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD), GoTriangle committed to continuing its work with Durham to evaluate the feasibility of a City Center Station during the Engineering Phase. With a reduction in platform length made possible by a move to two-car platforms, GoTriangle determined that a station platform could feasibly fit between Blackwell and Mangum Streets and without resulting in a potential impact to the historic Bull Durham building.

The purpose of the proposed Blackwell/Mangum Street Station is to offer more direct access to the city center of downtown Durham and event-based destinations in and around the American Tobacco campus, including the Durham Performing Arts Center and Durham Bulls Athletic Park

The cost estimate for the proposed additional station between Blackwell and Mangum streets is approximately \$2.5 million in Year of Expenditure (YOE) dollars more than the baseline design. As part of FTA-required cost management practices, changes to the base cost estimate (both savings and increases) associated with changes in the project design are tracked throughout Engineering and considered together. Although the overall project budget is set at entry into Engineering at \$2.476 billion, it is typical to shift expenditures between FTA cost categories to meet the needs of the project. In other words, savings in one area can cover additional expenditures in another area. This allows the agency and the project team to use the final design process to better align spending with goals and values.

In addition to the additional station in downtown Durham, GoTriangle is requesting a proposed change to the location of the Gateway station in Chapel Hill. As shown in the attachment, the proposed station location would move the station approximately 600 feet, away from I-40 and closer to the Orange County border.

GoTriangle is recommending this change for the following reasons:

- As part of GoTriangle's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) grant, GoTriangle held meetings with stakeholders to better understand the optimal development potential in

the area around the transit stations.

- It was determined that the existing Gateway Station location did not maximize the potential economic development opportunities for both Durham and Orange Counties. Quantitative analysis of the development potential is included in the attached memo from the TOD Consultant team.
- As a result of this process, it was recommended to shift the station and the light rail alignment to improve the overall opportunities for Durham and Orange counties.

The change would bring about the following benefits:

- The new location would increase potential economic development benefits.
- The new site layout is more conducive to urban redevelopment.

The cost estimate for the proposed change is approximately \$8 million (YOE) more than the baseline design. This is primarily due to a longer track alignment, additional required site and roadway construction, and additional real estate acquisition.

While moving the location of the Gateway Station does not require approval from the MPO Board, GoTriangle welcomes input from the DCHC MPO Board on the proposed new station location.

Following the required approval of any changes, GoTriangle staff will submit an environmental re-evaluation to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to compare the environmental effects of the proposed refinement to the effects previously disclosed in the DEIS and determine if the commitments outlined in the Amended Record of Decision mitigate the effects. FTA will then determine if additional environmental documentation is needed or if the existing environmental documentation is sufficient.

**TC Action:** The TC recommended that the MPO Board approve the addition of a station in the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT Project) between Blackwell and Mangum Streets along Pettigrew Street in downtown Durham.

**Board Action:** Approve the addition of the Blackwell/Mangum Street Station. Provide input on the proposed modified location of the Gateway Station.

**Attachments:**      [2017-12-13 \(17-195\) Station Area Recommendations Update Memorandum 4-1](#)  
[2017-12-13 \(17-195\) Proposed Gateway Station Location Map.pdf](#)  
[2017-12-13 \(17-195\) Proposed Blackwell-Mangum Station Location Map.pdf](#)

**11. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) (25 minutes)**[17-155](#)**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**Approve 2045 MTP

The MPO released the Preferred Option for a public comment period from November 1 through December 12, and the MPO Board conducted a public hearing at their meeting on November 8. The attached presentation describes recommended changes to the highway, transit, and financial plan section of the Preferred Option to create the final 2045 MTP. In addition, an updated copy of the project maps and table, and the financial plan are attached. These changes are also reflected in the online highway and fixed-guideway maps at the top of the Preferred Option Web page: [www.bit.ly/DCHC-MTP-Preferred](http://www.bit.ly/DCHC-MTP-Preferred). The Technical Committee (TC) recommends that the MPO Board approve these highway and transit projects, and the financial plan.

Public Comments

Public comments received as of 12/5/17 are compiled on an attachment and a summary is provided in the attached presentation.

Release Full Report, Performance Measures and Targets

Staff recommends that the MPO Board release the full report, performance measures and targets at their January 10, 2018 meeting for a 30-day public comment period. The Board received an update on these items at their November 8 meeting, and staff and the TC originally recommended that these items be released at the December 13, 2017 Board meeting. However, the modeling and report review tasks will require more time than anticipated.

SE Data and TRM

Staff will provide an update on the 2045 socioeconomic data and the Triangle Regional Model (TRM). These items are basic assumptions in the 2045 MTP and will be directly referenced in the 2045 MTP adoption resolution. See the attached presentation for details.

Adoption Schedule

Staff recommends that the Board adopt, by resolution, the 2045 MTP at their February 14, 2018 meeting. The adoption will include the SE Data, TRM, 2045 MTP projects and financial plan, Goals/Objectives/ Performance Measures/Targets, and the full report.

**TC Action:** Recommended that the MPO Board approve the 2045 MTP, and review and release for public comment the full 2045 MTP report, final Goals/Objectives/ Performance Measures, and Targets.

**Board Action:** Review 2045 MTP changes and approve 2045 MTP, receive SE Data and TRM update, and release for public comment the 2045 MTP report, final Goals/Objectives/ Performance Measures, and Targets at their January 10, 2018 meeting.

**Attachments:**      [2017-12-13 \(17-155\) 2045 MTP - Presentation.pdf](#)  
[2017-12-13 \(17-155\) 2045 MTP - ProjectsMap.pdf](#)  
[2017-12-13 \(17-155\) 2045 MTP - FinPlan.pdf](#)  
[2017-12-13 \(17-155\) 2045 MTP - PublicComments.pdf](#)

**12. DCHC MPO Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and Self-Assessment (5 minutes)** [17-190](#)

**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

In compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) has prepared a Transition Plan and Self-Assessment. The MPO is required to develop a Transition Plan as well as monitor its recipients of federal funds. The draft ADA Transition has been reviewed by NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) who also participated in a Roundtable discussion hosted by the MPO.

**TC Action:** Recommend MPO Board approval of the DCHCMPO Transition Plan and Self Assessment.

**Board Action:** Approve the DCHCMPO Transition Plan and Self Assessment.

**Attachments:**      [2017-12-13 \(17-190\) DCHC MPO ADA Transition Plan-110117 DRAFT-FINAL 2](#)

**13. Release of Amendment #1 to the FY2018-2027 TIP for Public**[17-197](#)**Comment (5 minutes)****Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

On November 8, 2017, the DCHC MPO Board adopted the FY2018-2027 TIP. That TIP must now be reconciled with the FY2018-2027 STIP by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a process that should take place by the end of the year.

Due to issues of consistency with the STIP within the first four years of the program, there are a number of projects within the TIP that will need to be changed through an amendment process. Because some of these projects change the funding amount by more than \$1,000,000, per the DCHC MPO Public Involvement Plan (PIP), the amendment must be released for a 21-day public comment period. The amendment will go back to the TC later this month and to the Board in January for approval.

The full report, summary sheet, and resolution for Amendment #1 are attached. There are two additions to this amendment that were not previously reviewed by the TC: EB-5837, Third Fork Creek Trail, which is getting additional TAP funding, and TG-6785, a new project for the purchase of two buses for Chapel Hill Transit. Information about these projects is included in the attachments.

**TC Action:** Recommended that the Board release Amendment #1 of the FY2018-27 TIP for public comment.

**Board Action:** Release Amendment #1 of the FY2018-27 TIP for public comment.

**Attachments:**        [2017-12-13 \(17-197\) TIP Amendment #1 Summary Sheet.pdf](#)  
                              [2017-12-13 \(17-197\) TIP Amendment #1 Full Report.pdf](#)  
                              [2017-12-13 \(17-197\) TIP Amendment #1 Resolution.pdf](#)

**14. MPO Board Elections (10 minutes)**[17-200](#)**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Per the MPO Board by-laws, officers are to be elected at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year. Terms of office are for one year, and no officer can serve in the same role for more than two consecutive terms. Since the current Chair, Steve Schewel, has served for the past two terms, he cannot be re-elected. Furthermore, the by-laws state that the Chair shall rotate from amongst representatives of the various counties, so the new Chair must come from either Orange or Chatham County.

The same rules regarding tenure apply to the Vice-Chair. Since the current Vice-Chair, Damon Seils, has served for two terms he cannot be re-elected to that position. The new Vice-Chair must come from a different county than the newly elected Chair.

At the November MPO Board meeting a nominations committee was formed. That committee will report its findings.

**Board Action:** Elect new officers for the 2018 calendar year.



**Minutes Recording Document**[17-193](#)**REPORTS:****15. Report from the Board Chair**[17-101](#)

Steve Schewel, Board Chair

Board Action: Receive the report from the Board Chair

**16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**[17-102](#)

TC Chair

Board Action: Receive the report from the TC Chair.

**17. Report from LPA Staff**[17-103](#)

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Board Action: Receive the report from LPA Staff.

**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-103\) LPA staff report.pdf](#)**18. NCDOT Report**[17-104](#)

Joey Hopkins (David Keilson/Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT

Mike Mills (Pat Wilson/Ed Lewis), Division 7 - NCDOT

Brandon Jones (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT

John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

Board Action: Receive the reports from NCDOT.

**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-104\) NCDOT Progress Report.pdf](#)**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS****19. Recent News Articles and Updates**[17-105](#)**Attachments:** [2017-12-13 \(17-105\) news articles.pdf](#)**Adjourn****Next meeting: January 10, 9 a.m., Committee Room****Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings: None**