

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

2 **February 9, 2022**

3 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

4 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on February
5 9, 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	Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
13	Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
14	Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
15	Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
16	Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
17	Adam Searing (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
18	Lisa Mathis (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
19	Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
20	Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
21	Josh Mayo	Chapel Hill Planning
22	Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
23	Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
24	Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
25	Brandon Dawson	Chatham County Planning
26	Bill Judge	City of Durham
27	Brian Taylor	City of Durham
28	Lynwood Best	City of Durham
29	Tom Devlin	City of Durham
30	Evian Patterson	City of Durham
31	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Government
32	Matt Day	Triangle J Council of Government
33	Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
34	Meg Scully	GoTriangle
35	Erin Convery	GoTriangle
36	Cha'ssem Anderson	University of North Carolina
37	Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
38	Michael Page	North Carolina Central University
39	Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration
40	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
41	Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5

42	Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 5
43	Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
44	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
45	John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Operations
46	Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD
47	Ryan Brumfield	NCDOT IMD
48	Nick Morrison	NCDOT IMD
49	Blake Cashmore	BGMPO
50	Don Bryson	VHB
51	DeDreana Freeman	Durham City Council
52	Heidi Perov	Resident
53	Tricia Smar	Resident
54	Rebecca Winders	Resident
55	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
56	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
57	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
58	Jake Ford	DCHC MPO
59	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
60	Kayla Peloquin	DCHC MPO
61	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO

62 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

63 **1. Roll Call**

64 Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate
65 Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated above.

66 **PRELIMINARIES:**

67 **2. Ethics Reminder**

68 Chair Jenn Weaver read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
69 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
70 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
71 MPO Board Members. Chair Jenn Weaver reminded Board Members of the state ethics filings due by
72 April 15, 2022.

73 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

74 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

75 **4. Public Comments**

76 There were no public comments.

77 **5. Directives to Staff**

78 Chair Jenn Weaver said coordination is occurring regarding implementation of the Governance
79 Study.

80 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

81 **6. Approval of the January 12, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**

82 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

83 Damon Seils asked where to find written statements submitted by public commenters. Aaron
84 Cain said that if written statements are received, they are included with the public comment
85 compilation for each individual item.

86 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Wendy Jacobs seconded the
87 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

88 **ACTION ITEMS:**

89 **7. NCDOT Complete Streets Update**

90 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

91 **Ryan Brumfield, NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division**

92 Chair Jenn Weaver thanked NCDOT partners for their work on the complete streets policy and
93 thanked LPA staff for highlighting the challenges to implementation. Dale McKeel introduced this item
94 and said NCDOT has been working on updates to the complete streets implementation guide to change
95 the way projects are evaluated. Dale McKeel welcomed Ryan Brumfield, director of the NCDOT
96 Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) and Brandon Jones, NCDOT Division 5 engineer. Brandon Jones
97 reviewed the topics to be covered in the presentation and the goals of complete streets. Brandon Jones
98 described the evolution of complete streets over time, and the key implementation challenges. Brandon

99 Jones emphasized that the guidance will not be final, it will be refined over time. Brandon Jones
100 mentioned the timeline for the guidance update.

101 Ryan Brumfield said the policy itself that was approved by the NC Board of Transportation in
102 2019 remains unchanged and only the implementation guide is changing. Ryan Brumfield stated the
103 goals of the new evaluation methodology, including to standardize and streamline planning processes
104 that will ultimately lead to more consistent inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on NCDOT
105 projects statewide. Ryan Brumfield summarized the five step project evaluation methodology consisting
106 of an initial screening, transportation need determination, facility selection, impact assessment, and a
107 final analysis. Ryan Brumfield highlighted the disparities of feedback received internally from NCDOT
108 and externally from MPOs and RPOs. Ryan Brumfield said discussions are ongoing on many key issues
109 and three workgroups will convene later this month to further refine recommendations. Ryan Brumfield
110 outlined the timeline for upcoming guidance release that will be paired with online training sessions.

111 There was a discussion on questions posted in the chat regarding who the stakeholders are and
112 the view of bicycle and pedestrian facilities as amenities as opposed to critical transportation
113 infrastructure. Durham resident Tricia Smar asked to speak on the item and was recognized by Chair
114 Jenn Weaver. Tricia Smar asked how existing NCDOT roads that are not being improved by NCDOT but
115 involve development projects by other partners fit into the complete streets policy. Tricia Smar said that
116 popular destinations such as schools and parks do not appear to be incorporated into the demand map
117 tool, which lead to gaps in infrastructure, especially with the loss of funding for the Safe Routes to
118 Schools program. Tricia Smar encouraged all partners to work together to ensure the safety of all road
119 users. Brandon Jones acknowledged that gaps in the sidewalk network exist all over the state, many of
120 which are on NCDOT roads, and the complete streets guidance is geared more to ensure facilities are
121 incorporated into future projects from the beginning. Brandon Jones agreed that the toughest challenge
122 will be to add bicycle and pedestrian elements to existing roadways with no projected improvements.

123 Brandon Jones said local governments typically take the lead for specific bicycle and pedestrian projects
124 although they have limited funding.

125 Dale McKeel said he has spoken with Tricia Smar regarding this issue, and agreed that it is a
126 major challenge for local governments to build and maintain bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
127 outside of municipalities. Dale McKeel said he is aware of community concerns over the lack of safe
128 access to schools, and hopes the newly hired transportation planner for Durham Public Schools will be
129 able to help. Brandon Jones said there is no clear answer for the maintenance issues and that will be an
130 area of continued discussion moving forward. Lisa Mathis thanked Tricia Smar for her comments that
131 represent common themes throughout the state. Chair Jenn Weaver thanked Tricia Smar and Dale
132 McKeel for their comments, and pointed out that communities are likely ambivalent as to what entity is
133 responsible for improvements, they simply want to be able to get where they need to go safely.

134 Michael Parker said these issues reflect the fact that complete streets elements are viewed as
135 amenities and not as integral to a roadway project. Michael Parker questioned why the burden of
136 maintenance on bicycle and pedestrian facilities is debated while NCDOT is always responsible for
137 maintenance of the roads themselves. Michael Parker said this highlights the need to change the
138 underlying philosophy to ensure bicycle and pedestrian facilities are considered integral to a road
139 project. Michel Parker said he hopes public transit infrastructure will become more closely intertwined
140 with the complete streets policy. Ryan Brumfield said there is some guidance on public transit in the
141 policy. Jamezetta Bedford agreed with Chair Jenn Weaver and Michael Parker and said that, as a County
142 representative, she is concerned about being assigned maintenance costs, and worries about lower
143 income rural counties that are in desperate need of complete streets improvements.

144 Wendy Jacobs thanked Ryan Brumfield and Brandon Jones for the presentation and said she
145 appreciates the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with NCDOT and IMD. Nick Morrison of IMD said
146 he will be regularly attending MPO TC and Board meetings. Wendy Jacobs said that real transformation

147 is necessary in how projects are funded, and this implementation guide is a great first step. Wendy
148 Jacobs asked if there will be follow up on the letter from the MPO regarding the implementation guide
149 and the schedule for the workgroups. Ryan Brumfield said workgroups will begin meeting later in
150 February and NCDOT is preparing a detailed response to the letter outlining how comments have been
151 addressed and the larger issues flagged for continued collaboration. There was a discussion on how to
152 incorporate future land uses and needs into the process.

153 Wendy Jacobs said there is a problem with the way transportation projects are prioritized for
154 state funding. Aaron Cain stated the normalization policy of the NCDOT Strategic Prioritization Office of
155 Transportation (SPOT) requires 90% of state funds go to highway projects, 4% for non-highway, and 6%
156 available to be flexed. Aaron Cain said that there is a much smaller amount of funding that goes directly
157 to the MPO, and DCHC policies were created to prioritize non-highway projects. Damon Seils echoed
158 Michael Parker's comments and said the complete streets title sounds hopeful, but the reality will be
159 found in the implementation of the policy. There was a discussion on an alternative inclusion plan.
160 Damon Seils said a large part of the process is determining need and asked if projects at the local level
161 will be designed consistently across the state or there will be differences amongst NCDOT divisions.
162 Ryan Brumfield said one of the best benefits of the guidance is the statewide consistency. Chair Jenn
163 Weaver said she is glad for the partnership with NCDOT IMD, recognized the gaps in perspective, and
164 said she appreciates the opportunity to make the complete streets policy work.

165 This item was for information purposes; no further action was required by the Board.

166 **8. 2050 MTP and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report**
167 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

168 Andy Henry reviewed the past schedule for public engagement and MPO TC and Board updates
169 during which the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) has been discussed. Andy Henry said the
170 final report, interactive maps, and public comments with staff responses are posted on the website, and
171 performance measures and appendices will be available online soon. Lisa Mathis said she is excited to

172 be voting to approve the MTP today and is excited about collaboration with DCHC. Wendy Jacobs
173 thanked Lisa Mathis and other NCDOT staff members for being engaged and thanked Andy Henry for all
174 of the incredible work. Andy Henry recognized TJCOG staff for their contributions. Javiera Caballero said
175 this is a wonderful step forward and hopes the focus on public engagement and equity will continue to
176 be expanded. Damon Seils echoed comments of thanks to Andy Henry.

177 Damon Seils made a motion to adopt the 2050 MTP by resolution. Wendy Jacobs seconded the
178 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

179 Chair Jenn Weaver expressed appreciation for all of the hard work that has gone into the 2050
180 MTP and the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR).

181 Damon Seils made a motion to adopt the AQ CDR by resolution. Javiera Caballero seconded the
182 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

183 **9. CTP Amendment #4**
184 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

185 Kayla Peloquin said the Board requested last month to pull the South Roxboro Street Extension
186 from Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #4, therefore the extension remains in the
187 CTP. Kayla Peloquin said the City of Durham request to administratively alter the alignment of the South
188 Roxboro Street Extension will be completed. Kayla Peloquin said CTP Amendment #4 will be brought to
189 the TC in February and then to the Board in March for final approval. Chair Jenn Weaver opened the
190 public hearing. Rebecca Winders said the decision makers and planners today have opportunities to
191 partially redress past transportation inequities by addressing the needs of low-wealth black, brown, and
192 indigenous people first before the needs or wants of residents of wealthy suburbs. Rebecca Winders
193 expressed support for the complete street policy, and added that investment in bicycle and pedestrian
194 infrastructure should be directed to the most dangerous, incomplete streets in low-wealth, transit
195 dependent neighborhoods. Rebecca Winders expressed support for the Transit Emphasis Corridors
196 (TECs), but questioned if adequate community consultation and data was considered in their

197 designations. Rebecca Winders called on the MPO to designate the Dearborn Drive portion of
198 GoDurham Route 9, 9A, and 9B as a TEC. There was a discussion on Dearborn Drive with relation to the
199 Durham County Transit Plan. Chair Jenn Weaver closed the public hearing.

200 **10. FY2023 Draft Unified Planning Work Program**
201 **Mariel Klein, LPA Staff**

202 Mariel Klein highlighted personnel changes included in the FY23 UPWP and said a memo
203 outlining all of the changes to the UPWP from the first draft to the final version will be included at the
204 March Board meeting. Mariel Klein reviewed the three Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) changes that are
205 based on recommendations from the Governance Study and noted that no action will occur until the
206 FTEs are approved through the City of Durham budget process. Mariel Klein compared the current and
207 proposed LPA staff organizational charts. Chair Jenn Weaver opened the public hearing. There were no
208 speakers. Chair Jenn Weaver closed the public hearing. Chair Jenn Weaver mentioned that Vice Chair
209 Karen Howard, Damon Seils, Aaron Cain, and Yanping Zhang met last week to discuss the
210 implementation of the Governance Study with relation to staffing. Chair Jenn Weaver said the bulk of
211 implementation will occur once the new director is hired. Damon Seils said he looks forward to taking
212 action on the UPWP in March and appreciates that staff has approached the UPWP with the Governance
213 Study in mind. Wendy Jacobs said the new director may make changes to the organizational chart, so it
214 will be helpful to see an updated chart in the future and review job descriptions for new positions.
215 Aaron Cain said the job descriptions can be shared.

216 **11. FY23 Call for Projects – Recommended Projects for Funding**
217 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

218 Aaron Cain presented the Locally Administered Projects (LAP) program funding sources pursuant
219 to the Federal Funding Policy. Aaron Cain described the two existing projects, the TJCOG Transportation
220 Demand Management (TDM) continuing program, and the three new projects recommended for
221 funding. Aaron Cain shared the distribution of funding by agency. Aaron Cain pointed out the recently

222 updated Federal Funding Policy requires a 21-day public comment period. Javiera Caballero asked to see
223 the scoring rubric, and Aaron Cain said that is included in the memo. There was a discussion on the
224 scoring process for the projects. Javiera Caballero said she is glad the Horton Road project will be
225 funded, but it seems the MPO is following a geographic version of equity without considering different
226 population demographics. Javiera Caballero said she will continue to urge the MPO to focus on equity.

227 Pam Hemminger made a motion to release the proposed projects to be funded through the
228 FY23 Call for Projects for a 21-day public comment period. Javiera Caballero seconded the motion. The
229 motion passed unanimously.

230 **12. Durham County US 70 Corridor Study**
231 **Jacob Ford, LPA Staff**

232 Jake Ford described the scope changes of the US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study to
233 consider a conversion to a boulevard. Jake Ford said STV has been selected as a consultant and Aidil
234 Ortiz will be subcontracted for public engagement. Jake Ford reviewed the upcoming timeline for the
235 study that should be complete around spring of 2023. Wendy Jacobs asked what resources have been
236 allocated for this study. Jake Ford said there is \$200,000 budgeted for the study. Wendy Jacobs
237 emphasized that NCDOT should be a partner and hopes to get regular updates on the progress of the
238 study. Lisa Mathis concurred. Javiera Caballero said she is not seeing public engagement occur until late
239 in the process, and hopes to see embedded cycles of public feedback to establish an open dialogue with
240 residents and businesses as active participants.

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

242 **13. Orange County US 70 Multi-modal Corridor Study**
243 **Nishith Trivedi, Orange County**

244 Nishith Trivedi shared a map of the US 70 Corridor Study boundary in Orange County and the
245 scope elements culminating in a draft plan that can be incorporated into the Comprehensive
246 Transportation Plan (CTP), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and State Transportation

247 Improvement Program (STIP). Nishith Trivedi said the budget is \$200,000 and the study should be
248 completed by winter of 2023. Chair Jenn Weaver said Javiera Caballero's point about public engagement
249 from the previous item is applicable to this study as well.

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

251 **REPORTS:**

252 **14. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

253 **Jenn Weaver, Board Chair**

254 Chair Jenn Weaver reminded Board members to complete the state ethics filing. Chair Jenn
255 Weaver said the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) tour to south Florida has been postponed to the
256 end of March. Chair Jenn Weaver mentioned the MPO director job announcement has been posted.

257 **15. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

258 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

259 Ellen Beckmann had no report.

260 **16. Report from LPA Staff**

261 Aaron Cain said the position previously held by Anne Phillips has been advertised and
262 recruitment is underway. Aaron Cain pointed out the informational item on the FY2024-2033 STIP
263 update.

264 **17. NCDOT Reports**

265 **Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

266 Lisa Mathis gave updates on the STIP reprogramming, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)
267 outreach meetings, winter storms, and a recent incident in Durham where a truck was dangling from a
268 bridge. Lisa Mathis said the NCDOT Transportation Summit was held on January 19-20 and recorded
269 sessions are available on the website.

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

271 Brandon Jones said the East End Connector is on track for a June 2022 opening and provided a
272 few other project updates.

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

274 Pat Wilson had no update. Damon Seils mentioned the need for coordination on the resurfacing
275 in Downtown Carrboro and Chapel Hill scheduled for this summer. Pam Hemminger asked for an update
276 on the I-40 expansion project, and Pat Wilson said it will likely not begin until late spring or mid-summer.
277 Pam Hemminger said flashing pedestrian markers are being installed on Estes Drive today.

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

279 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

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

281 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

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

283 John Grant had no report.

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

285 Nick Morrison said he was encouraged by the complete streets discussion and is glad to be the
286 point of contact for IMD.

287 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

288 **18. FY2024-2033 STIP Update**

289 **19. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

290

291 **ADJOURNMENT:**

292 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
293 11:35 a.m.