

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

2 **December 9, 2015**

3
4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on December 9,
7 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City
8 Hall. The following people were in attendance:

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10	Steve Schewel (MPO Board Temporary Chair)	City of Durham
11	Jim G. Crawford (Member)	Chatham County
12	Don Moffitt (Member)	City of Durham
13	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	Durham County
14	Bernadette Pelissier (Member)	GoTriangle
15	Jenn Weaver (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
16	Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
17	Ed Harrison (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
18	Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
19		
20	Joey Hopkins	NCDOT, Division 5
21	David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
22	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
23	Darius Sturdivant	NCDOT, Division 8
24	Julie Bollinger	NCDOT, TPB
25	Tom Altieri	Orange County
26	Bergen Watterson	Town of Carrboro
27	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
28	Mila Vega	Town of Chapel Hill
29	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
30	Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
31	Geoff Green	GoTriangle
32	Mark Ahrendsen	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
33	Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
34	Albert Amotay	Durham County
35	J. Glenn	Durham County
36	Edward Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
37	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
38	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
39	Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
40	Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
41	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
42	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
43	Lauren Horsch	Herald Sun

44
45 Quorum Count: 8 of 11 Voting Members

46

47 Steve Schewel acting as Temporary Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A roll call was
48 performed. Don Moffitt and Pam Hemminger were recognized as new members of the MPO Board. The
49 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board weres identified as indicated
50 above. Steve Schewel reminded everyone to sign-in..

51 **PRELIMINARIES:**

52 **Ethics Reminder**

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

56 There were no known conflicts identified by the MPO Board members.

57 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

58 Steve Schewel asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda and statedthat it was suggested by
59 Mark Ahrendsen to move item #17 - election of the Chair and Vice Chair of DCHC MPO Board Committee – to
60 the beginning of the agenda.

61 Mark Ahrendsen requested the addition of the FAST Act (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act)
62 legislation bill to the end of the agenda and referenced the handout material. Mark Ahrendsen stated the
63 MPO LPA staff had distributed the SPOT project material (Transit, Rail, Bike/Ped and Highway information
64 submitted in the SPOT system for scoring) to everyone which which had been requested by the MPO Board in
65 November. He statedthere is no need to discuss this information during the meeting..

66 Damon Seils requested the addition of the SPOT Safety project in Orange County, west of Carrboro.

67 Steve Schewel asked Ed Harrison, who arrived after roll call, if he would like to introduce himself. Ed
68 Harrison introduced himself.

69 Steve Schewel thanked the DCHC MPO Board for their additions to the agenda.

70 **Public Comments**

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

73 **Directives to Staff**

74 The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review. Steve Schewel asked for
75 comments on the Directives to sStaff. He stated that almost all the Directives to Staff have been completed
76 and there were a couple still in motion.

77 Ellen Reckhow asked how the MPO had addressed Complete Streets policies and procedures that
78 were discussed in previous meetings. Lindsay Smart explained that Complete Streets would be addressed
79 through the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Goals and Objectives were on the agenda.

80 **5. Election of DCHC MPO Board Officers for 2016**

81 DCHC MPO Board Nominating Committee
82 Mark Ahrendsen, Technical Committee Chair

83
84 Steve Schewel stated he will move the election of Board Officers from item #17 to item #5. The
85 election of DCHC MPO Board officers occurs in the last DCHC MPO Board meeting of every year. Steve
86 Schewel stated that he and Jim G. Crawford were the DCHC MPO Board Officer Nominating Committee and
87 that they had met briefly with Mark Ahrendsen.

88 He asked that Jim G. Crawford present the Nominating Committee recommendation for the 2016
89 Chair and Vice Chair of the DCHC MPO Board. Jim G Crawford stated the Committee, by unanimous decision,
90 nominate Steve Schewel as Chair of the DCHC MPO Board. The Vice Chair should be from Chapel Hill or
91 Carrboro. Steve Schewel nominated Damon Seils as Vice Chair.

92 Steve Schewel asked for a motion to approve the election of Steve Schewel, DCHC MPO Board Chair,
93 and Damon Seils, Vice Chair, for 2016. Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve and Bernadette Pelissier
94 seconded.

95 The motion passed unanimously.

96 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

97

98 **6. Approval of November 11, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes**

99 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any discussion on the November 11, 2015, meeting minutes.
100 Ellen Reckhow and Damon Seils stated there were minor typographical errors: on line 453 it should be
101 Orange County, a space between A and train; the first page listed Jenn Weaver as a Member rather than an
102 alternate; and line 50 had no quorum count. Ed Harrison and Damon Seils stated that line 167 should be
103 Elliott Road, not Ellis Road. Chair Steve Schewel stated FTA is the Federal Transit Administration, not the
104 Federal Transit Authority. Chair Steve Schewel asked for a motion to approve the November 11, 2015,
105 meeting minutes with the minor changes.

106 The motion passed unanimously.

107 Chair Steve Schewel thanked the MPO staff for their excellent preparation of the minutes.

108 **7. 2016 MPO Board and Technical Committee Meeting Schedule**

109 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

110
111 Lindsay Smart introduced the meeting schedule for 2016. Steve Schewel stated that the MPO Board
112 meeting should be the 13th of April instead of the 6th of April. Mark Ahrensden stated the Technical
113 Committee meeting should be the 27th of April.

114 **8. FY2016 Unified Planing Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1**

115 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

116 Meg Scully provided an overview of the FY2016 Unified Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1. Meg
117 Scully stated there were three minor changes including a reallocation of STP-DA funds among task code by
118 Carrboro to better reflect their actual work to be performed, and the addition of Section 5307 and 5309
119 funds for CHT. Meg Scully stated that the 5307 and 5309 funds were not fully used in FY2015, therefore,
120 they were pulled forward to FY2016 to complete two projects, including the Long-Range Financial
121 Sustainability Study and the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Alternative Analysis.

122 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any questions for Meg Scully. Bernadette Pelissier asked if
123 that was all the money required for the alternative analysis? Meg Scully stated it was all the money

124 requested in the UPWP. Bernadette Pelissier stated she was not clear if it would complete the study.

125 Lindsay Smart stated the project was put forward in SPOT 4.0 to receive additional funding.

126 A motion was made by Jim G. Crawford to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Ellen

127 Reckhow. The motion passed unanimously.

128 **ACTION ITEMS:**

129 **9. FY2017 STP-DA and TAP Funding for DCHC MPO Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Project**

130 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

131 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

132 **Felix Nwoko, LPA staff**

133

134 Lindsay Smart stated the DCHC MPO Board has a regional bicycle and pedestrian bucket that is a

135 competitive funding source for the bicycle and pedestrian projects which cross more than than one

136 jurisdiction. Each year, there is funding available for projects that meet screening criteria. Lindsay Smart

137 stated the Technical Committee reviewed the projects at their last meeting. Currently, there are 24 bicycles

138 and pedestrian projects programmed as funded or partially funded in FY2016-2025 MPO TIP. The Technical

139 Committee reviewed those 24 projects first. The Technical Committee wanted to look at the projects first to

140 see if any of the existing projects could be advanced, before using new funding for 2017 for a new project.

141 Lindsay Smart stated three projects meet the screening criteria for funding through the regional bucket. The

142 three projects listed were: (1) Morgan Creek Greenway (west) (EL-4828); (2) Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road

143 (EB-4707); and (3) Bolin Creek (Phase 1B) Greenway Trail Project (U-4726 DE).

144 Lindsay Smart stated the Technical Committee had a discussion on each of the three projects. The

145 Bolin Creek (Phase 1B) Greenway Project was put out for bid in Spring or early Summer last year. After

146 selecting the bid, the lowest bid was still \$265,000 greater than available funding. Carrboro requested

147 \$212,000 of federal STP-DA and TAP funding from the MPO. With the federal funding and non-federal match

148 of local dollars, Carrboro reaches their \$265,000 as needed. This would move the project forward for

149 construction and the Town hopes to have the project completed by the end of 2017.

150 Lindsay Smart stated the Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road project is also moving forward. The project is
151 managed by Mike Kneis, Project Manager, NCDOT, Division 5. Lindsay Smart stated that with her
152 understanding, they are moving ahead in 2016 and 2017 with right-of-way acquisition for the rest of the
153 corridor. With the STP-DA and TAP funding, this would allow right-of-way for a portion of the project in
154 Chapel Hill to be acquired on the same schedule as the Durham section. The remaining available balance of
155 \$641,000 of the STP-DA and TAP funds would be allocated to the Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road project, and
156 that would get the project closer to staying on schedule. Lindsay Smart asked if there were any questions
157 about the recommendation for allocating FY2017 STP-DA and TAP funding for DCHC MPO Regional Bicycle and
158 Pedestrian Projects to the Bolin Creek Greenway and Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road projects or the process for
159 selecting those projects.

160 Damon Seils reported on the Bolin Creek Phase 1 project funding. He stated the Board of Alderman
161 had met on the 24th of November with the anticipation of having this conversation today. The Carrboro Board
162 of Alderman had authorized the Town Manager to allocate the local match if the \$212,000 of STP-DA and TAP
163 funding was approved today. Damon Seils stated that the local match already approved.

164 Ed Harrison commented on the second project on the chart, stating that the Old Durham/Chapel Hill
165 Road project was created by the DCHC MPO Board about 22 years and 1-month ago.

166 Chair Steve Schewel asked Lindsay Smart to help him understand LTV for Orange Public Transit (OPT).
167 Lindsay Smart stated that LTV means the Light Transit Vehicle. Mark Ahrendsen stated it is bigger than a van,
168 but smaller than a bus.

169 Meg Scully stated LTVs are typically used for a demand response service but OPT runs all LTVs. Chair
170 Steve Schewel stated he is trying to understand what a demand response service was for a vehicle like that in
171 Orange County? Lindsay Smart stated it is a part of the Orange Public Transit System and what they offer to
172 residents. Chair Steve Schewel asked what demands are they responding to? Lindsay Smart stated that is
173 Paratransit. Mark Ahrendsen stated that he believed it's an Easy Rider Program.

174 Chair Steve Schewel asked about the second attachment, 2015-12-09 DCHC Policy 3 - DCHC MPO
175 Federal Funds - Adopted - 2014-08-13. He referenced the top page of four about the 30% allocation based on
176 unlinked trips. Meg Scully explained that an unlinked trip represents each time a passenger boards a vehicle.
177 There are many ways to count transit services, or to account for transit services that are just one-way
178 providers counted. It is the same all across all agencies. Ellen Reckhow asked a follow-up question, so in
179 terms of an unlinked trip, if they move from - if they get off on one, and directly get onto another transit, is
180 not that a link? Meg Scully stated, yes, two on the link.

181 Chair Steve Schewel stated he does not understand the chart with vehicle revenue miles, vehicle
182 revenue hours, and unlinked trips. Mark Ahrendsen stated it is based on what the transit agencies report to
183 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The data reported to FTA determines the allocation of funds for the
184 transit agencies. Chair Steve Schewel stated he has the general idea that miles, hours, and unlinked trips just
185 means someone is getting on every time.

186 Chair Steve Schewel stated the second attachment is about CMAQ funds. He is interested in a
187 discussion that was held at the last meeting. The fact that we are now no longer required to demonstrate air
188 quality conformity, does it mean the DCHC MPO may not receive CMAQ funds. Felix Nwoko stated the MPO
189 should still receive CMAQ funds; there are no changes in the legislation. Mark Ahrendsen stated the bill's
190 language refers specifically to it. John Hodges-Copple stated the language is still in the new bill and that
191 nothing has changed.

192 Chair Steve Schewel asked what flexing of funds means in the second attachment? Lindsay Smart
193 stated that it is when federal highway funding is converted to federal transit funding, and then used for
194 something for which it was not previously eligible.

195 Chair Steve Schewel asked for an explanation of the of STP-DA and TAP funding on the chart. He
196 wanted to know how it was done. Lindsay Smart explained the allocation of STP-DA and TAP funding. Lindsay
197 Smart stated that the MPO Board approved the revised allocation formula for FY17 through FY25 at an earlier

198 meeting. Lindsay Smart stated that the new allocation did not include an inflation factor that had been used in
199 the funding allocation for FY15 and FY16. The inflation factor in FY15 and FY16 had been applied in an attempt
200 to program previously unobligated funds.

201 Ellen Reckhow asked where the population data in the flowchart came from. Lindsay Smart stated that
202 the data were 2010 census data. Mark Ahrendsen stated that this was what the federal government used to
203 allocate funds among the recipients. Ellen Reckhow asked if we would use 2010 data until the 2020 census
204 data were available.

205 Meg Scully explained that the population and the formula for distribution by the MPO to
206 subrecipients are based on the same numbers that FTA uses to allocate funds to the DCHC MPO and
207 reiterated that the formula accommodates fast growing areas.

208 Ellen Reckhow stated that if the MPO is allowed to update, we should. Meg Scully stated that this is
209 an MPO policy to be approved by the MPO Board as they did in October, and the policy is based on FTA's
210 formula which already accounts for the population change between censuses.

211 Chair Steve Schewel asked that the LPA staff provide at the next meeting information on how the
212 distribution formula works.

213 Meg Scully asked if he would like to have it for the next meeting or the next time they bring the
214 distribution amounts to the DCHC MPO Board for approval, which would be for the federal FY2017 allocation
215 in the spring. Chair Steve Schewel stated that it would be okay to provide the information when the FY17
216 distribution amount is approved.

217 Jim G. Crawford stated that Chatham County expect Chatham Park would change the Town of
218 Pittsboro at some point. They may want to have a discussion about extending the DCHC MPO Board boundary
219 to include that growth when it happens, which may be from five to ten years out. But when it comes, it will be
220 significant, and we would like to have the paperwork done so the transition is as seamless as possible, because
221 it is another growth area on the rise.

222 Chair Steve Schewel asked how to proceed on that? Lindsay Smart stated there is a federal process by
223 which the MPO area as defined by the census and there is a process whereby the DCHC MPO Board can
224 request a modification to the boundaries. Lindsay Smart stated the DCHC MPO LPA staff bring that
225 information back to the DCHC MPO Board later in the spring 2016.

226 Chair Steve Schewel asked Felix Nwoko if he had comments. Felix Nwoko stated that the DCHC MPO
227 Board is required to review the designation of the urbanized area after the census data are released and
228 provide written change requests. Chair Steve Schewel asked if they would need a formal request from
229 Chatham to do it? Felix Nwoko stated, no, they would not need one from Chatham; however, NCDOT has a
230 policy that local government must concur with becoming a member of an MPO. NCDOT would require
231 Pittsboro to say yes; we would like to be included in the DCHC MPO. The concurrence is needed because
232 Pittsboro would be asked to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and contribute local matching funds to
233 the MPO.

234 Damon Seils stated that the first step is to have the DCHC MPO Board receive information about what
235 the process is before we start to go down the road asking the Chatham County or Pittsboro to provide the
236 concurrence to us. He stated learning more first would be good. Chair Steve Schewel stated it is not a big
237 rush, but Damon Seils has the right idea. He asked the DCHC MPO LPA staff to bring back information to the
238 DCHC MPO Board later in the spring.

239 A motion was made by Damon Seils to approve the allocation of STP-DA and TAP funding for Bolin
240 Creek Greenway project and Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road project and the motion was seconded by Pam
241 Hemminger. The motion passed unanimously.

242 **10. 2045 MTP - Schedule and Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures**

243 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

244
245 Andy Henry stated that he will provide a brief discussion on goals, objectives, performance measures,
246 and a draft schedule for the 2045 MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan). He stated there is no action
247 needed today, but he would like feedback. Andy Henry requested that the MPO Board review the Goals,

248 Objectives, and Performance Measures before they are released for public review in a couple of months.
249 Andy Henry stated the short-term schedule now is to get the goals and objectives approved in January 2016.
250 Or possibly in February 2016, so the MPO can receive public feedback on the goals and objectives for
251 adoption.

252 Andy Henry stated that the three handout attachments include the goals. The first attachment is
253 straight out of the 2040 MTP report. Andy Henry stated that the Board members will recognize the goals and
254 objectives, because they are from the adopted 2040 MTP. There are nine goals, with anywhere from 7 to 11
255 objectives under each goal.

256 Andy Henry stated that the goals are more or less organized by the mode; the Safest Sustainable
257 Transportation System, Multi-Modal Street and Highway System, Natural Environment and Social Systems,
258 Pedestrian and Bicycle, Land Use, and Public Transportation. These current goals and objectives are being
259 used now.

260 Andy Henry stated that the table is the second handout with multiple colors in landscape formats.
261 The reason for the changes is because the MPO LPA staff are trying to make the performance measures to
262 directly relate with the goals and objectives. The second reason that the MPO LPA staff believed it will be
263 easier to have just one set of goals and objectives for both the DCHC MPO and CAMPO. Also, the goals and
264 objectives will align better with the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Andy Henry
265 stated that still there are nine goals and objectives anywhere from 1 to 4 objectives underneath each.

266 Ellen Reckhow stated that with her planning background, she viewed this work as some of the most
267 important work of the DCHC MPO. This is because the MTP guides future project selections. This phase of the
268 MTP should set some of the priorities of the DCHC MPO in terms of allocating dollars if the MPO wants to try
269 to achieve the targets.

270 Ellen Reckhow stated to Chair Steve Schewel that she wondered if they could do something different
271 for this discussion, such as break the DCHC MPO Board into discussion groups. She stated that the staff could
272 be mixed with the Technical Committee and the DCHC MPO Board members of different subject areas.

273 Chair Steve Schewel stated to Andy Henry that he looked at the third handout on the schedule. He
274 wanted to know when it would return to the DCHC MPO Board. Andy Henry stated that it looks more like
275 February 2016, because the way the schedule would be impacted by the Christmas and New Years holidays.

276 Damon Seils stated that he is interested particularly in the category of Environmental Justice, and how
277 the staff is thinking about specifying some of it. He stated maybe it would be clearer in his mind if he saw the
278 performance measures of the category. He stated that he thinks it may be a more difficult category in a sense
279 of design and performance measures. He suggested to look at some of the other goals, and some of the
280 infrastructure goals conjunction in reduction. Damon Seils stated that the staff is dealing with some things in
281 some gray areas, he believes.

282 Andy Henry stated that one thing they ran into, as you can see, is 2015 values. They receive the 2015
283 values, and it is difficult to project the population by income and the ethnicity to 2045. Andy Henry stated
284 that this makes it a bit more difficult, but perhaps we don't have to have the 2045 projections. We need to
285 look at what we have today. Andy Henry stated that in that particular performance measure maybe it does
286 not have to have it and take it out. Andy Henry stated that maybe they do not need to project out.

287 Damon Seils stated that even the objectives around public participation, for example, need to be
288 clearer about how you would measure success in using that objective. What does a successful public
289 engagement initiative look like, specifically when you talk about Environmental Justice? Damon Seils stated
290 that we need to be able to list performance measures that have the same kind of ethnicity in this category.

291 Lindsay Smart stated that the DCHC MPO Board adopted the 2014 Environmental Justice Report for
292 the DCHC MPO Board, which has some specific, next steps and goals for more fully incorporating
293 Environmental Justice into the 2045 MTP. Simultaneously during a 2045 MTP process, DCHC MPO LPA staff

294 will be taking the recommendations of the 2014 Environmental Justice Report and and incorporating them.
295 Lindsay Smart stated there is some more specific language that is adopted in the Report that will be used.

296 Damon Seils stated that is helpful and that he supports the idea of focus group discussions that was
297 previously proposed by Ellen Reckhow. He stated maybe some more focus discussions around some of these
298 topics would be helpful, especially if the discussions and include DCHC MPO Board members, Technical
299 Committee members, and MPO staff.

300 Bernadette Pelissier stated that one issue that needs to be added here, it is to focus on performance
301 measures. Bernadette Pelissier stated she knew that it's harder to come up with performance standards like
302 the issues Damon Seils is talking about. She stated the MPO's success is not only from the connections with
303 the urban area, but the people moving around from one urban area to another and from the rural area to the
304 urban area. Bernadette Pelissier stated somehow the MPO needs to capture that as one of our major goals.
305 She thinks that is clearly where we are going.

306 Mark Ahrendsen stated, yes, the MPO can brainstorm around a table in a less formal workshop setting
307 as a focus group after the January meeting with the DCHC MPO Board. He stated the feedback on the
308 performance measure and data would be available to the LPA staff or would it be harder to collect the data.

309 Chair Steve Schewel stated it would be good to do it on a day when there is a brief agenda because
310 people have already blocked their calendar.

311 He thanked Mark Ahrendsen and requested the staff's guidance on the workshop.

312 Andy Henry stated they did not have to have the exact goals and objectives, especially the same
313 targets can be different from CAMPO's. He stated to keep them as close as we can; however, they can vary
314 some.

315 Chair Steve Schewel believes the DCHC MPO Board has a good foundation for their goals.

316 Chair Steve Schewel and Andy Henry agreed no action is required today.

317 Andy Henry gave an update on the rest of the schedule for the 2045 MTP. Andy Henry stated he
318 would come back with the social economic data and the land use model by June 2016. Andy Henry stated that
319 it will show where we think people will live and work in 2045. Andy Henry stated they will also have the
320 deficiency analysis in next summer 2016 or the fall due to trends analysis. Andy Henry stated with the various
321 alternatives, we plan to analyze it. Andy Henry stated then we will come back and release the preferred option
322 by January 2017. Andy Henry stated that we will have plenty of time to go ahead and get this final adopted by
323 June 2017. Officially, we have until April 2018, but we are going to try to stick to our four-year schedule
324 because we have already seen how the SPOT can be impacted by having plans that are several years old. We
325 got old plans and have new ideas, and new projects. The LPA staff thinks it is a good goal to stay on the four-
326 year cycle so that the projects would not get too stale.

327 Chair Steve Schewel requested that the DCHC MPO LPA staff does a new member orientation and
328 include a list of abbreviations for the word acronyms. Ed Harrison stated as Lindsay Smart has pointed out,
329 there is an acronym list on the website.

330 Don Moffitt asked about the mission statement in the 2040 MTP. Don Moffitt asked if the same
331 mission statement would be carried forward to the 2045 MTP.

332 Andy Henry asked John Hodges-Copple if they had redone it, or was it the same mission statement.
333 John Hodges-Copple stated that the vision was similar to the last. John Hodges-Copple stated that at the last
334 go around an economic development piece was added to it. Andy Henry stated that there was a mission
335 statement and he had not added the piece. Andy Henry stated he will have it at the next meeting.

336 Chair Steve Schewel thanked Andy Henry for the report.

337 **REPORTS:**

338 **11. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**
339 **DCHC MPO Board Chair**

340
341 Damon Seils stated that there is a potential Spot Safety funding opportunity that the Board of
342 Transportation will consider at its March 2016 meeting. It is for the intersection of NC 54 west and Dodsons

343 Crossroad. Apparently, the accident history there has led to a higher priority to NCDOT and they are now
344 considering a signal at that intersection. He requested MPO or Division 7 staff bring background information
345 about that particular project and if it would be helpful, the DCHC MPO Board provide a letter supporting the
346 Spot Safety funding for that project.

347 Chair Steve Schewel stated that he and Damon Seils met for orientation for the Chair and Vice
348 Chair with the LPA staff. They will discuss the possibility of a meeting with CAMPO more regularly in the
349 near future. Ellen Reckhow stated that it is a good idea and let's discuss the Wake Transit Plan Final Draft
350 release.

351 Ellen Reckhow reported that an article in the News and the Observer newspaper referenced
352 incorrect information stating that Durham had shelved the commuter trains a few years ago, and now, is
353 investing most of its sales tax for a \$1.5 billion light rail project. She stated that we did not have partners
354 on the commuter rail project, so it was delayed. The commuter rail is still in the plans. She would like to
355 have the misinformation that she read in the paper corrected and the corrected information be sent to the
356 paper and to CAMPO.

357 John Hodges-Copple stated that it might be appropriate to send a letter from the DCHC MPO Board
358 to CAMPO to remind them what is actually in the Transit plans while acknowledging the challenges, and
359 figuring out how the two communities could work together over time.

360 Patrick McDonough stated that in February 2012 the DCHC MPO Board voted to adopt not only the
361 D-O LRT but also the Durham-Wake Commuter Rail from west Durham to Garner. These were the same
362 plans on the CAMPO side. In terms of documenting, see the DCHC MPO and CAMPO MTP. The DCHC MPO
363 Board went further and adopted it in Transit plans. He stated CAMPO came up to that place and paused.
364 The Wake County Commission was not in the same place at that time with CAMPO.

365 Chair Steve Schewel asked what kind of regular reporting for the D-O LRT and what type of
366 schedule the DCHC MPO Board would like to hear from GoTriangle. He will provide potential topics like

367 the station design and engineering of the Center City station serving this active area. There is a lot of
368 interest in downtown and midtown of Durham stations and how could we join the discussion. Patrick
369 McDonough suggested regular updates from GoTriangle on the same schedule as the quarterly Durham
370 Orange Workgroup meetings.

371 GoTriangle will work with the DCHC MPO Board's schedule and continue to share their milestones
372 while working with the Board. He stated they have been working with FTA on the administrative final draft
373 to the FEIS. FTA has about a month to read it and get back with GoTriangle with any questions and follow-
374 ups. GoTriangle is in the final draft phase and expects to receive a record of it the end of February 2016.
375 This one will give them federal approval for the Board to work with the public on technical information and
376 document environmental impact and potential litigation. He stated that the station design is further down
377 the road. They have a whole punch list of City Centers and public discussions, one example, the people
378 that live on Trenton Road.

379 **12. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

380 **Mark Ahrendsen, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

381

382 There was no additional report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair.

383 **13. Reports from LPA Staff**

384 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

385

386 Felix Nwoko briefed the DCHC MPO Board on the draft of the Annual Report FY2015 for the Durham-
387 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization. He stated that this is the first time the MPO LPA
388 staff has drafted an Annual Report. The Annual Report will be submitted to FTA and NCDOT. The Annual
389 report is informational for the public and includes information on what the DCHC MPO Board does, and on
390 how their programs integrate with their goals and objectives. Felix Nwoko stated that the Annual Report is
391 provided to the MPO Board for informational purposes and requested the DCHC MPO Board review the
392 Annual Report and provide comments at the next meeting.

393 Chair Steve Schewel asked Felix Nwoko if the DCHC MPO LPA staff would like to hear back from them
394 at the next meeting. Felix Nwoko stated, yes, they would like to hear back from the DCHC MPO Board at the
395 next meeting. Chair Steve Schewel asked the DCHC MPO Board to review the Annual Report for comments.
396 Chair Steve Schewel asked the DCHC MPO LPA staff to resend the Annual Report to the DCHC MPO Board as
397 an electronic copy. He stated the Annual Report will be on the agenda for the next DCHC MPO Board
398 meeting.

399 **14. NCDOT Reports:**

400 Joey Hopkins, NCDOT Division 5, introduced himself and David Keilson, Planner-Engineer. He briefed
401 the DCHC MPO Board about Division 5 and their interaction with the DCHC MPO Board. Joey Hopkins stated
402 that at the intersection of Erwin Road and Randolph Road the traffic signal should be installed and
403 operational next week. He provided an update on the Triangle Connector, the East End connector project.
404 He stated that Ellis Road was closed for a couple of hours yesterday because the contractor jacked the
405 temporary bridge and set it in the median of NC 147 over Ellis Road. Joey Hopkins stated that the next
406 month or so the southbound traffic will be driving on that bridge, and in what is now the median of NC 147,
407 to further help with the construction of the new interchange there with NC 147. Joey Hopkins stated that
408 they hoped to do a video of it in the coming weeks. Joey Hopkins stated that if they get it, they will be glad
409 to share it with the DCHC MPO Board.

410 Joey Hopkins stated that the projects are on schedule and everything is going well. Joey Hopkins
411 stated that they are having a few little communication blips and headaches with the railroad, which is not
412 unheard of in their world, and hoped they will be able to work through it. Joey Hopkins stated that the
413 contractor, Dragados, is working with Division 5 and Division 9. This is their first two projects with NCDOT.
414 Joey Hopkins stated that Dragados is having a little bit of a learning curve working with them, but they are
415 very interested in doing the right thing. Joey Hopkins stated they are very responsive to their conversations.

416 They are looking forward to their continuing progress with that project. Joey Hopkins asked if there were
417 any questions.

418 Don Moffitt asked a question about the roundabout at Broad Street and Carver Street and he noticed
419 the contractor let was in June, but no work has been done, and he requested a status. Joey Hopkins stated
420 he did not have that information, but will get it for him. Don Moffitt asked about the traffic signal planned
421 for Gregson Street and Peabody Street, which is very close to the light at Main Street and Peabody Street.
422 Joey Hopkins asked Don Moffitt if he had heard of the website elevenfooteight.com and he answered, yes.
423 Joey Hopkins stated that the signal is for when over height vehicles reach that point, the warning signs and
424 flashing of the “over height” red warning lights continue until the driver turns on Peabody.

425 Mark Ahrendsen stated there is an intersection signal at Roxboro Street and Pettigrew Street that
426 does the same.

427 Don Moffitt stated on page three, the very last item U-5745, is a roundabout at Hope Valley Road
428 and University Drive. There is a note that states the roundabout will not handle the traffic. He asked if it
429 means the roundabout is no longer a feasible project? Joey Hopkins stated that their congestion
430 management team says the roundabout that was planned for there will not handle the existing traffic. They
431 are currently working with Durham staff to look for alternatives. He did state they had tried to improve that
432 intersection about 15 years ago. They had a big push back from the neighborhood so the project plans were
433 dropped at the time. Joey Hopkins stated it will be controversy with anything they do there. Don Moffitt
434 stated yes, it will and thanked Joey Hopkins.

435 Ellen Reckhow asked about Erwin Road and Randolph Road. Has the other piece of that project been
436 completed in terms of extending the sidewalk and putting in the crosswalk? Joey Hopkins stated that he is
437 not sure if that has been done yet or not. Mark Ahrendsen stated that the sidewalk has been done. The
438 signal was installed, but not activated. There will be pedestrian equipment for the crossing. Ellen Reckhow
439 asked if the crosswalk had been striped. Mark Ahrendsen stated the striping will not go in until the signals

440 are activated. The stop bars are put in for the signals, which are minor things, and future crosswalks. Ellen
441 Reckhow asked if there will be a crosswalk. Mark Ahrendsen and Joey Hopkins stated, yes, there will be a
442 crosswalk and ped signals.

443 Ed Harrison stated that he notices Wade Avenue heading into Raleigh has 500's set back for
444 pedestrian crossing. He stated that the signs for Chapel Hill and Durham are at the crossings. He cited
445 locations in Chapel Hill and Carrboro where there were several pedestrian crossings. Ed Harrison stated he
446 did not know if NCDOT Division or Districts could add those signs on the state roads. He was informed that it
447 depended on the speed limit, and Wade Avenue has a 35 mph speed limit for the four lanes. He stated there
448 are a lot of places around the state with the signs. He stated it would really help if the local government and
449 NCDOT could cooperate on getting standard warning signs at pedestrian crossings at places such as Erwin
450 Road.

451 Joey Hopkins stated that NCDOT Division 5 traffic staff has regular meetings with Durham traffic staff.
452 He would add this to their agenda. Joey Hopkins stated the thing he would like to caution the DCHC MPO
453 Board about, if anything, especially signs, the only people who see the sign will be the person who requests
454 it. Joey Hopkins stated the sign becomes litter to everybody else or clutter. He stated that they try very
455 carefully when they do these things in making sure of a need or a true benefit. Chair Steve Schewel stated he
456 knew NCDOT will help them figure it out and thanked Joey Hopkins.

457 Mark Ahrendsen asked for the latest update for Alston Avenue. Joey Hopkins stated that he does not
458 have that information on it, but will bring it back at the next meeting.

459 Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, provided an update and mentioned the Dodsons Crossroad
460 intersection that Damon Seils had asked about. The proposal for intersection of White Crossing and Old
461 Greensboro Road four-way stop light has been installed the 12th of November. Some additional signing done
462 there to bring attention to the stop condition on Old Greensboro Road, and that was installed the 12th of
463 November. Pat Wilson stated the Spot Safety Project at Dodsons Crossroad and NC 54 was identified as a

464 safety need at that location. So, they submitted that project and that cost for Spot Safety funds. Pat Wilson
465 stated that the project does compete with other projects statewide based on the benefit cost ratio. Pat
466 Wilson stated that by March 2016, it should be approved by the State Transportation Board. Pat Wilson
467 stated he could be the contact person at the Division office and will provide the information to Damon Seils,
468 so the DCHC MPO Board can be updated either next month or the following month.

469 Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 8, stated that the Spot Safety Project at intersection NC 751 and
470 New Hope Church Road is scheduled to be let in February 2016. It is a construction of a southbound left turn
471 lane on NC 751. Darius Sturdivant stated it is an upcoming schedule of resurfacing projects in Chatham
472 County, which is scheduled for FY2017.

473 Darius Sturdivant stated he wanted to circle back to the conversation earlier about Pittsboro joining
474 the DCHC MPO Board. Darius Sturdivant stated he was made aware of a conversation between the DCHC
475 MPO Board and Pittsboro. It took place, maybe a couple of years ago. This was back when Ellen Beckmann
476 was on the DCHC MPO LPA staff. She met with Pittsboro shortly after Pittsboro approved the Chatham Park
477 Development. They had the discussion about Pittsboro possibly joining the DCHC MPO Board. Darius
478 Sturdivant stated that he was not sure of the level of details of that conversation, but that is where the
479 conversation had started. Darius Sturdivant stated that maybe the DCHC MPO staff could to follow up with
480 Ellen Beckmann to get more details.

481 Ellen Reckhow stated that the meeting with Pittsboro included Mark Ahrendsen, Mark Kleinschmidt
482 and herself, representing the DCHC MPO Board. Ellen Reckhow stated that they actually used that project as
483 a reason with the Chatham County Commission to be encouraging them to get more active with the DCHC
484 MPO Board. Ellen Reckhow stated that this was because they felt that it was going to be a real need to be
485 planning for the transportation and infrastructure associated with that project. Darius Sturdivant stated with
486 that major project coming online, there is definitely a need for Chatham County to come on board and be
487 proactive with the DCHC MPO Board.

488 Darius Sturdivant thanked the DCHC MPO Board.

489 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any concerns or questions and thanked Darius Sturdivant.

490 There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

491 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

492 Chair Steve Schewel stated that he wanted to thank our NCDOT partners that we really appreciate all
493 the work they do on their behalf and with the DCHC MPO Board and for working so closely with the staff.

494 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

495 **15. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

496 All handouts are available on the website.

497 **16. Side by Side, STRR and DRIVE, Legislation, Information: FAST ACT**

498 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there was any information on item 16, and Mark Ahrendsen stated
499 that there was nothing additional to report.

500 **ADJOURNMENT:**

501 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40
502 a.m.