

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

**13 March 2019**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on March 13, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Michael Parker (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Jenn Weaver (Member)	Town of Hillsboro
Vernetta Alston (Member)	City of Durham
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Steve Schewel (Alternate)	City of Durham
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Pam Hemminger (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Penny Rich (Alternate)	Orange County
Joey Hopkins	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
Mike Stanley	NCDOT, Division of Planning
Jahmal Puller	NCDOT
Scott Whiteman	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Corey Lives	Town of Chapel Hill
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Maureen Devlin	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO

47	Heidi Perry	Resident
48	Natalie Griffith	Regional Transportation Alliance
49	Ed Harrison	NC Sierra Club
50	Katheryn Volleur	NCDOT
51	Lori Klein	Quest
52	Julie White	NCDOT
53	James Trogdon	NCDOT

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55 Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

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58 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A roll call was performed.

59 The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are

60 indicated above. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that

61 was being circulated.

62 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that both Chair Damon Seils and Renee Price made requests

63 for excused absences. Jenn Weaver made a motion to excuse Chair Damon Seils and Renee Price from

64 the MPO Board Meeting. Lydia Lavelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [Renee

65 Price later arrived at the MPO Board meeting during the public comment period.]

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**PRELIMINARIES:****2. Ethics Reminder**

68 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts

69 of 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 the MPO Board members.

72 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that, by April 16, 2019, each Board Member and Alternate

73 must fill out the Statement of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure for 2019. Vice Chair Wendy

74 Jacobs stated that the forms can be located on the North Carolina State Ethics Commission website.

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

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76           There were no adjustments to the agenda.

77    **4. Public Comments**

78           Heidi Perry requested that North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) allow ‘Bikes  
79    May Use Full Lane’ signs on county roads, while highlighting an instance of a driver driving dangerously  
80    close to a bicyclist in Orange County. Heidi Perry also cited a 2016 North Carolina State law that states  
81    a driver must allow for four feet of distance between his/her motor vehicle and a bicyclist when  
82    passing.

83    **5. Directives to Staff**

84           The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs  
85    and Aaron Cain discussed ongoing meetings with the North Carolina Rail Division and a planned visit by  
86    the Rail Division to a future MPO Board meeting.

87                                   **CONSENT AGENDA:**

88    **6. February 27, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

89           Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated the February 27, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes should be  
90    corrected on line 105 to read “Renee Price,” instead of “Renee Parker.”

91           Renee Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2019, MPO Board  
92    meeting as amended. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

95    **7. Remarks and Discussion with Secretary of Transportation James H. Trogdon, III**

96    **James H. Trogdon, III, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation**

97    **Wendy Jacobs, MPO Board Vice Chair**

98    **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

99           Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs welcomed Secretary James Trogdon III to the MPO Board Meeting.

100    Secretary Trogdon stated his first priority is to improve program delivery throughout North Carolina.

101    Secretary Trogdon stated that his second priority is to improve safety. Secretary Trogdon continued

102 that he plans to work with the General Assembly to introduce safety corridors to pilot different  
103 safety initiatives. Secretary Trogdon stated his third priority is to improve mobility and ameliorate  
104 congestion. Secretary Trogdon stated that this his plan is not to have a 'one size fits all' approach to  
105 each of the 14 Transportation Divisions throughout North Carolina, and to improve mobility projects  
106 that people need, want, and will use.

107 Secretary Trogdon stated that his fourth priority is to improve the appearance and conditions  
108 of North Carolina transportation facilities. Secretary Trogdon stated that overgrown vegetation and  
109 an abundance of litter threaten safety and a flourishing tourism industry. Secretary Trogdon stated  
110 that his fifth priority focuses on sustainable revenue and innovative financing tools. Secretary  
111 Trogdon explained that the NC First Commission would bring together economists, financial experts,  
112 local government officials, and business leaders in order to create a plan to pay for transportation  
113 investments and future technologies. Secretary Trogdon noted that such technologies, such as  
114 drones, have increased in popularity over the past few years, and air management system plans will  
115 be necessary.

116 Secretary Trogdon stated that his sixth priority is to become better partners with businesses  
117 to develop the human resources necessary to sustain North Carolina's economy. Secretary Trogdon  
118 added that the engineering and contracting communities, as well as the transit service providers and  
119 municipalities, will need to work together in order to recruit incoming talent to solve future issues.

120 Secretary Trogdon stated that his last priority is to better communicate internally and  
121 externally. Secretary Trogdon continued that he plans to increase community engagement on  
122 transportation issues by implementing new technologies to reach the social media accounts of  
123 drivers, and equipping new bridge construction with fiber optic capabilities. Secretary Trogdon  
124 continued that North Carolina had been selected for a federal grant that would widen I-95 from  
125 Virginia to South Carolina and extend broadband capabilities in eastern North Carolina. Secretary

126 Trogdon stated that Julie White has procured two autonomous people-movers and is searching for  
127 locations in which to test them. Secretary Trogdon discussed the Strategic Transportation  
128 Investments (STI), and how he is a proponent for a statewide travel demand model. Secretary  
129 Trogdon also stated that the results of the NC Frist Commission are ongoing and will help to  
130 determine how growth will be supported in the state.

131 Secretary Trogdon and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed their support for the Durham-  
132 Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) project. Secretary Trogdon also stated that he is recommitting to fully  
133 implement the Complete Streets policy that has already been developed. Pam Hemminger stated  
134 that the ability to fund sidewalks would be an important part of the Complete Streets program.

135 Ellen Reckhow discussed the importance of bicycle and pedestrian (bike/ped) paths along  
136 future projects, such as NC 54 and NC 98. Secretary Trogdon stated that there are legislative  
137 restrictions concerning constructing standalone greenway facilities. Ellen Reckhow stated there was  
138 a plan sent to NCDOT proposing that the funding used for bicycle lanes on the road could be spent  
139 on multiuse paths instead. Ellen Reckhow stated that, in reference to reducing greenhouse gases by  
140 40% by 2025, in Massachusetts there are solar collectors along the Massachusetts Pike Highway in  
141 the right-of-way. Secretary Trogdon responded that, in regard to Governor Roy Cooper's order to  
142 grow electric vehicle usage, he is researching many different options for electric car charging  
143 stations.

144 Penny Rich asked about the implication of adding additional roads to alleviate traffic  
145 congestion and how it relates to the NC First Commission, which plans to reduce the use of cars over  
146 time. Secretary Trogdon responded that growth in transportation will be focused in areas that will  
147 interact with multimodal transit areas of opportunity.

148 Michael Parker asked about long-term planning for transit infrastructure. Michael Parker also  
149 asked about changing funding formulas so they are more beneficial to transit. Secretary Trogdon

150 responded that the funding formulas are able to be changed in the General Assembly. Secretary  
151 Trogdon added that he is working with other transportation experts to research the concept of a  
152 fixed guideway in order to support transit investment. Secretary Trogdon also stated that it is  
153 important to integrate planning resources to solve transportation problems, which involves a  
154 combination of transit and highway options.

155 Jenn Weaver asked about the growing traffic in the relatively small Town of Hillsborough and  
156 how to best manage traffic. Jenn Weaver also mentioned that the local match requirement is a  
157 barrier for traffic improvement. Secretary Trogdon responded that it is important to work to support  
158 projects at the local government level and work with local agencies.

159 Lydia Lavelle reiterated the request of Heidi Perry to introduce appropriate bike signage to  
160 county roads, and stated that Orange County would be willing to partner with the NCDOT to pilot  
161 new programs.

162 Pam Hemminger stated that the Superstreet program, in respect to 15-501, is often not  
163 appropriate for areas with many bicyclists and pedestrians, for example at the Friday Center of the  
164 University of North Carolina. Pam Hemminger requested further conversations about Superstreets.  
165 Secretary Trogdon stated that smaller alternative options are available instead of Superstreets, and  
166 that he is open to further discussions.

167 Renee Price asked about rural access to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Secretary Trogdon  
168 responded that NCDOT has inventoried bike/ped facilities and is in the process of developing a  
169 statewide plan for greater connectivity. Renee Price also asked about representation on the NC First  
170 Commission Board. Secretary Trogdon stated that members of the Board have not yet been finalized.

171 Ellen Reckhow requested additional support from the NCDOT in negotiating with the North  
172 Carolina Railroad for more right-of-way access for the future Durham-Raleigh Commuter Rail Transit  
173 (CRT) project.

174 Renee Price asked how the Volkswagen settlement money will be used. Secretary Trogon  
175 stated that the funding is being administered by the Division of Environmental Quality, and areas of  
176 focus include electric vehicle charging stations and conversion of bus fleets to electric powered  
177 buses.

178 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that it is important to focus attention of the residents to  
179 their transportation choices and how it impacts the environment, housing, community, and taxes.  
180 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs continued that it is necessary to recognize that future technologies may not  
181 be equitable for all DCHC MPO residents. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs committed to working with the  
182 NCDOT on piloting and supporting future projects that will benefit residents. Vice Chair Wendy  
183 Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed that DCHC MPO and Capital Area Municipal Planning Organization  
184 (CAMPO) have met several times in order to work collaboratively and introduce a set of shared  
185 legislative goals. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs recommended that bike/ped projects in the draft 2020-  
186 2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) be programmed with the right-of-way in the  
187 first five years in order to obtain federal funding. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs also mentioned issues  
188 related to the NCDOT Cost Estimator.

189 **REPORTS:**

190 **11. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

191 Damon Seils, Board Chair

192 There was no report from the MPO Board.

193 **12. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

194 Nish Trivedi, TC Chair

195 There was no report from the Technical Committee.

196 **13. Report from LPA Staff**

197 **Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

198 Aaron Cain stated that the special MPO Board Meeting will no longer occur.

199 **14. NCDOT Report**

200 David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated that he had no additional comments to the report.

201 Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that he had no additional comments to the report.

202 Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that he had no additional comments to the report.

203 There was no further report from Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch.

204 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

205 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

206 **17. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

207 Recent News, Articles and Updates are located in the agenda packet.

208 Aaron Cain added that the public meeting for the east Durham siding and grade separation  
209 project will be from 5-7 p.m. at the Hamner Center at Research Triangle Park (RTP).

210 **ADJOURNMENT:**

211 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs entertained a motion to adjourn. Michael Parker made a motion to  
212 adjourn. Charlie Reece seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

213 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at  
214 11: 21 a.m.