



**DCHC MPO Board
Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

4. Public Comments

CONSENT AGENDA:

5. Approval of the February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes [23-146](#)
David Miller, LPA Staff

A copy of the February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes is attached.

Board Action: Approve the February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-146\) February 8 2023 Board Meeting Minutes](#)

6. City of Durham Letter of Support Request for Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Grant Application [23-138](#)
Evian Patterson, City of Durham

The City of Durham (COD) proposes a planning study to establish a mobility hub at the Village Transit Center (VTC) to provide equitable access to transit and improve connections to employment and educational opportunities for the community. Current transit facilities are inadequate for the robust level of transit ridership. The new mobility hub will offer significant improvements to passenger services and provide amenities such as weather shelters and seating, accessibility for disabled populations, and real time bus arrival and departure information. Improvements to passenger safety and security such as lighting and security cameras will be implemented. Attached is a memorandum with additional details about this request, as well as the draft letter of support for review.

TC Action: Recommended that the Board authorize the Board Chair to sign the Letter of Support for the City of Durham's Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Grant Application.

Board Action: Authorize the Board Chair to sign the Letter of Support for the City of Durham's Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Grant Application.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-138\) COD Request for MPO Letter of Support for 2023 AOPP M](#)
[2023-03-08 \(23-138\) COD AOPP Letter of Support](#)

7. **Amendment #14 to the FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** [23-113](#)

Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Amendment #14 to the FY2020-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adds \$2.3 million in Community Project Funding and local fund match to the R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail. TIP Amendment #14 also adds several projects to the TIP including the N-S-BRT. This amendment also updates the funding for the Chapel Hill portion of the Morgan Creek Greenway.

As there are projects with changes in excess of \$1 million, per the MPO's Public Involvement Plan (PIP), this amendment must be released for a 21-day public comment period. The current timeline for adoption is as follows:

- February 22: TC recommends Board release for public comment
- March 8: Board releases for public comment
- March 22: TC recommends Board approves amendment
- April 12: Board approves amendment

The original timeline for this amendment was set for approval in May to allow a 21-day public comment period between Board release and TC recommendation. This date was moved back to April so that a 21-day comment period exists only between Board release and Board recommendation.

TC Action: Recommended that the MPO Board Release TIP Amendment #14 for 21-day Public Comment Period.

Board Action: Release TIP Amendment #14 for 21-day Public Comment Period.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-113\) TIP Amendment #14 Summary Sheet](#)
[2023-03-08 \(23-113\) TIP Amendment #14 Full Report](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8A. **S-Line Presentation (15 minutes)** [23-149](#)
Jason T. Orthner, Rail Division Director, NCDOT

An update on the S-Line project will be shared by Jason Orthner, Rail Division Director from NCDOT. The presentation will be available at, and the file shared after the Board meeting.

Board Action: Receive the presentation.

ACTION ITEMS:

8B. Orange County Interlocal Agreement (15 minutes)[23-148](#)**Adam Howell, Atkins**

The Interlocal Agreement (ILA) was brought before the Board of Orange County Commissioners on November 1, 2022, where the Board took action to adopt the ILA as presented during that meeting. Subsequently, it was brought to the DCHC MPO Policy Board for adoption on December 14, 2022 where the Board took action to defer adoption until a later date. Since that date, there have been discussions with regional partners to refine certain sections of the ILA to meet the needs of all parties based on recent respective governing board directions. The attached memo provides these refinements.

Board Action: Consider adoption of the Orange County Transit Program Interlocal Agreement (ILA).

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-148\) Orange County ILA](#)
[2023-03-08 \(23-148\) DCHC-OC Co ILA Adoption - Memo](#)

8. FY2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (10 minutes)[22-198](#)**David Miller, LPA Staff**

The DCHC MPO is required by federal regulation to prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. Funding for the UPWP is provided by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The UPWP must identify MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds.

The MPO Board released the Draft FY2024 UPWP for public comment on February 8. Public comments will be shared with the Board, though no comments have been received as of March 1. The next key date in the UPWP development process is to hold a public hearing at the March 8 Board meeting.

The remaining schedule for the UPWP development process is as follows:

- March 8: MPO Board holds a public hearing
- March 22: TC receives the final UPWP and recommends the Board approve the FY2024 UPWP
- April 12: MPO Board approves the final FY2024 UPWP.
- April 12: DCHC MPO submits approved UPWP to NCDOT

The Draft FY2024 UPWP and full development schedule is included as information.

Board Action: Conduct a public hearing.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(22-198\) FY2024 UPWP DRAFT 3.1.2023](#)
[2023-03-08 \(22-198\) FY24 UPWP Development Schedule](#)

10. FY24 Call for Projects - Recommended Projects for Funding (15 minutes)[23-123](#)**Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) invited member agencies to submit applications for federal funding from the Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) and local discretionary programs in November 2022. Funding applications were due on December 9, 2022. FY24 is the last year that jurisdictions will receive a direct allocation of local discretionary funds and these funds must be obligated by FY26.

The RFF pool for FY24 consists of four funding sources that come directly to the DCHC MPO: Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (BGDA), Transportation Alternatives Program Direct Attributable (TAPDA), Carbon Reduction Program Direct Attributable (CRPDA), and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ). The call for projects that was conducted by MPO staff is consistent with federal requirements for CMAQ and TAPDA funds, and can be applied to all funding sources.

MPO staff recommend funding ten projects or programs through this call. Five are existing projects that requested additional or continuing funding:

- Alston Avenue Sidewalks (City of Durham)
- Hillandale Road Bike & Pedestrian Improvements (City of Durham)
- Morenne Road Bike Lanes & Sidewalks (City of Durham)
- Bicycle Detector Loops (Town of Carrboro)
- Fordham Boulevard Sidepath (Town of Chapel Hill)
- Triangle TDM Program (TJCOG)

In addition, MPO staff recommend funding five new projects:

- Downtown Chapel Hill Bus Stop Improvements (Chapel Hill Transit)
- Orange County Bus Stop Improvements (GoTriangle)
- 805 Corridor/NC 54 Bus Stop Improvements (GoTriangle)
- Cameron Avenue Protected Bike Lanes/ Cycle Track (Town of Chapel Hill)
- Downtown Hillsborough Parking Study (Town of Hillsborough)

The draft recommendations were released to the public on February 13, 2023. The public comment period ended March 7, 2023.

CMAQ applications are due to NCDOT by March 15, 2023. This call has recommended four projects/programs for CMAQ funding. Once the MPO Board approves the FY24 recommended projects, LPA staff will forward recommended CMAQ projects to NCDOT for review. NCDOT makes the final determination on whether or not to grant the funding requests.

TC Action: Recommended that the Board approve the FY24 Call for Projects recommended projects.

Board Action: Approve the FY24 Call for Projects recommended projects and authorize submission of recommended CMAQ projects to NCDOT.

Attachments:

[2023-03-08 \(23-123\) FY24 Call for Projects Presentation](#)

[2023-03-08 \(23-123\) FY24 Call for Projects Recommended Projects for Funding](#)

[2023-03-08 \(23-123\) FY24 Call for Projects Public Comments](#)

[2023-03-08 \(23-123\) Federal Funding Policy with Rubric](#)

[2023-03-08 \(23-123\) CMAQ Resolution](#)

11. FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap (30 minutes)[22-201](#)**Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff**

On April 25, 2022, NCDOT released the first version of the Draft FY2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Due to fiscal constraints in the state's transportation budget, the Draft STIP did not include any new projects from the Prioritization 6 (SPOT 6) process that concluded in July 2021. Instead, the Draft STIP programmed existing projects in a manner that met with NCDOT's current fiscal situation. This resulted in the removal of many projects from the ten-year Draft STIP.

In July 2022, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted, and the Governor signed, a new state budget that provides an influx of new funding for transportation, thereby providing additional revenue for the STIP. On August 4, 2022, NCDOT released a revised Draft FY2024-2033 STIP that takes this new revenue into account. Several projects are now also in the Draft FY2024-2033 STIP that are not in the recently adopted DCHC MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The protocol established by the SPOT Workgroup, and approved by the North Carolina Board of Transportation, for approval of the Draft STIP remains in place. MPOs can request to "swap" STIP projects. This would allow projects to either be moved up within the STIP, or for projects that were not included in the ten-year STIP to be moved into the STIP, provided that other projects of similar cost and tier were removed. MPO staff has been working with local staff to determine if any swaps are desired based on the revised Draft STIP.

The new deadline for submission of STIP swaps is March 17, 2023. Depending on the updated cost analysis for the proposed U-5774B/U-5304F swap, U-6118 could be swapped into the STIP with regional tier funding as opposed to division tier funds.

The draft STIP swap recommendations were released to the public on February 13, 2023. Public comment was open through March 7, 2023. Comments will be provided at the meeting.

TC Action: Recommended that the Board approve the recommended STIP swaps.

Board Action: Approve the recommended STIP swaps.

Attachments:[2023-03-08 \(22-201\) FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap Memo](#)[2023-03-08 \(22-201\) FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Reprogramming \(Swaps\) Public](#)[2023-03-08 \(22-201\) Chapel Hill Resolution to Swap U-5304F for U-5774B](#)**12A. DCHC MPO and TJCOG Agreement for Employees**

23-150

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski will request an agreement for employees between DCHC MPO and TJCOG in order for the MPO to reimburse TJCOG for task costs the current UPWP.

Board Action: Approve the DCHC MPO and TJCOG Agreement for Employees.

12. Request to Establish a Commuter Rail Working Group (5 minutes)[23-147](#)**Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**

To contribute to and provide feedback on commuter rail feasibility across the greater Triangle and within the DCHC MPO urbanized area, we ask the Board to establish a working group of elected officials, from Durham County and the City of Durham at a minimum, to collaborate with each other and regional partners. This workgroup may advise the MPO policy board. This approach matches how CAMPO is addressing the commuter rail concept.

Board Action: Establish a commuter rail working group.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**14. Bus Rapid Transit Western Extension (15 minutes)**[23-143](#)**Shelby Powell, CAMPO**

In April of 2021, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) began conducting a study to identify and evaluate rapid bus service options as extensions to the planned Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The two extensions are from Cary to Research Triangle Park (Western corridor) and from Garner to Clayton (Southern corridor).

The study's consultant has developed a technical recommendation for a locally preferred alternative in each corridor, which was presented to the Core Technical Teams and Stakeholder Oversight Teams in October 2022 for feedback. A final round of public engagement occurred during November and December 2022, with anticipated recommendation of a final Locally Preferred Alternative early in 2023. Information can be found online at <https://wakebrtextensionsstudy.com>.

Shelby Powell will share additional information about and provide an update on this project.

Board Action: Receive the presentation.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-143\) Bus Rapid Transit Western Extension Presentation](#)

[2023-03-08 \(23-143\) Bus Rapid Transit Western Extension Handout](#)

15. **Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update - Study Area and Corridor (15 minutes)** [23-139](#)

Yanping Zhang, LPA Staff

The congestion management process (CMP) is a systematic and regionally-accepted approach for managing congestion that provides accurate, up-to-date information on transportation system performance as well as assessments of alternative strategies for congestion management that meet State and local needs. Federal requirements state that the CMP shall be developed and implemented as an integrated part of the metropolitan transportation planning process. Based on the recent release of the 2020 urban area from Census Bureau together with highway and transit systems, the study area, corridors, and transit network for CMP are proposed.

TC Action: Received the presentation and provided comments.

Board Action: Receive the presentation and provide comments.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-139\) CMP Update+StudyArea+Corridors-2-27-2023](#)

REPORTS:

16. **Report from the Board Chair** [23-100](#)
Jenn Weaver, Board Chair

Board Action: Receive the report from the Board Chair.

17. **Report from the Technical Committee Chair** [23-101](#)
Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair

Board Action: Receive the report from the TC Chair.

18. **Report from LPA Staff** [23-102](#)
Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Board Action: Receive the report from LPA staff.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-102\) MPO Staff Report](#)

19. NCDOT Reports [23-103](#)

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation
Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT
Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT
Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT
Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT
John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT
Nick Morrison - NCDOT IMD

Board Action: Receive the reports from NCDOT.

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-103\) NCDOT Reports](#)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:

20. Recent News Articles and Updates [23-104](#)

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-104\) Recent News Articles](#)

21. 15-501 Modernization and I-40 Interchange TIP Project U-6067 [23-144](#)

Update Letter to NCDOT

Attachments: [2023-03-08 \(23-144\) LTR NCDOT US15-501 \(U-6067\) 02232023](#)

Adjourn

Next meeting: April 12, 2023, 9 a.m., Committee Room

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings: None