

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

**16 January 2019**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on January 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located on the first floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
Michael Parker (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Jenn Weaver (Member)	Town of Hillsboro
Vernetta Alston (Member)	City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Pam Hemminger (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Penny Rich (Alternate)	Orange County
Mike Fox (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPD
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Becky McDonnell	Town of Chapel Hill
John Hodges-Copple	TJ Council of Government
Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
Jennifer Keep	GoTriangle
Scott Whiteman	Durham County
Evan Tenenbaum	Durham County
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Maureen Devlin	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham Transportation / TC Chair
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Eddie Dancausse	FHWA
Waddy Davis	Northwood Community
John Hollingsworth	Northwood Community
Joe Milazzo	Regional Transportation Alliance

Julie McClintock Resident

Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A roll call was performed. The

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

indicated above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being

circulated. Chair Damon Seils welcomed Penny Rich from Orange County to the MPO Board.

### **PRELIMINARIES:**

#### **2. Ethics Reminder**

Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by the MPO Board members.

Chair Damon Seils stated that, by April 16, each Board member and alternate must fill out the Statement of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure for 2019.

#### **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Agenda Item 13 was discussed after agenda item 15.

#### **4. Public Comments**

Waddy Davis and John Hollingsworth from the Northwood Community spoke to the MPO Board about the NC 86 and I-40 interchange. Waddy Davis stated that, on behalf of the homeowners in Northwood Community, he opposes Plan A and supports Plan B. Waddy Davis explained that Plan A would impact safety and property value for residents of the community. John Hollingsworth stated that Plan A would negatively impact the Northwood community's access to clean drinking water by disrupting their water source. John Hollingsworth also stated that he has concerns about septic system

issues may be caused. John Hollingsworth stated that he supports the design depicted on Map 4B, as described on the handout sheet he distributed to the MPO Board. John Hollingsworth asked a question about submitting a petition to the MPO Board. Chair Damon Seils recommended that he discuss the issue with Aaron Cain so that the MPO Board would be able to review the petition. Pam Hemminger noted that there is a public meeting for the NC 86 and I-40 interchange on January 24, and she would like to hear more public comments before moving forward with a resolution. Aaron Cain discussed the timelines for adopting a resolution and suggested that MPO staff bring all relevant information from the meeting, including cost, to Chapel Hill staff. Penny Rich stated that she would prefer if Orange County staff were also included in ongoing developments.

Julie McClintock, resident, stated that she discovered some issues in the Durham-Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) Guidebook (agenda Item 12). Julie McClintock stated that the tax rate for the Gateway Station is inflated. Julie McClintock also noted that other stations located on University of North Carolina (UNC) property were not taxable. Julie McClintock also raised concern about the accessibility of light rail stations for commuters.

Joe Milazzo invited the MPO Board Members and Alternates to the Regional Transportation Alliance 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on January 24 at the Embassy Suites near Raleigh-Durham Research Triangle Park. Joe Milazzo continued that further information can be found at [www.letsgetmoving.org/stateofmobility](http://www.letsgetmoving.org/stateofmobility)

## **5. Directives to Staff**

The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

## **6. December 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

Chair Damon Seils asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2018 MPO Board meeting. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**7. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -- Amendment #1**  
**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that staff released Amendment #1 to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) on November 28, 2018, along with the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR) for public comment. Andy Henry continued that these documents along with the public input opportunities have been posted to the MPO website and advertised in local newspapers.

Andy Henry stated that staff has not made any significant changes to the Amendment #1 version that was released. Andy Henry continued that there will be a slight change to the current version by adding three future Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) studies to Chapter 7 of the 2045 MTP. Andy Henry stated that MPO staff added the interim Socioeconomic Data years 2017, 2025, 2035, 2040 and 2045 to this most recent version of the resolution to streamline processes with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Andy Henry stated that the AQ CDR must be adopted by February 16, 2019 to continue federal transportation actions in the region.

Chair Damon Seils opened and closed the public hearing after receiving no public comment.

Jenn Weaver asked a question about the South Churton Street project. Andy Henry responded that any changes to names in the MTP will not impact the South Churton Street project and that his goal was to match the MTP to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to streamline the review process with federal agencies. Jenn Weaver also asked about submitting comments about the South Churton Street project. Andy Henry recommended making comments on the TIP at TIP public comment events and opportunities. Aaron Cain added that comments can be added to the FY2029 State Transportation

Improvement Plan (STIP), which will be discussed later in the MPO Board meeting and also at the next MPO Board meeting.

Michael Parker made a motion to adopt Amendment #1 to the 2045 MTP and Transportation Regional Model (TRM) version 6 by resolution. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. Air Quality Conformity Determination Report**

**Andy Henry, MPO Staff**

**John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

Andy Henry Stated that the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR) is a companion item to the 2045 MTP. John Hodges-Copple stated that the TIP must be a conforming subset of the MTP. John Hodges-Copple stated that the MPO Board adopts the MTP and the TIP, both of which require specific air quality conformity testing. John Hodges-Copple stated that the MTP must be fiscally restrained. John Hodges-Copple added that both the MTP and the TIP must meet air quality standards. John Hodges-Copple noted that the final AQ CDR has minor changes to it including minor spelling and grammatical edits, and additional acronym definitions. Andy Henry added that the AQ CDR is in compliance with both the 2045 MTP and the 2018-2027 TIP. Renee Price stated that there is an incorrect date on the final page of the AQ CDR.

Chair Damon Seils opened and closed the public hearing after receiving no public comment.

Renee Price made a motion to adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report by resolution with the appropriate date correction. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **9. GoTriangle Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018**

**Jennifer Keep, GoTriangle**

**Mo Devlin, SWG Administrator**

**John Tallmadge, GoTriangle**

Jennifer Keep and Mo Devlin presented the transit plan annual reports for Durham and Orange counties for Fiscal Year 2018, highlighting both fiscal results and accomplishments resulting from the Durham and Orange County transit tax. Jennifer Keep stated that the Durham County Fiscal Year 2018 revenues cumulatively were \$53.7M, the largest portion of which came from the half cent sales tax which contributed to approximately \$30M. The expenditures of the transit tax were \$53.7M with the largest portion of it going to the light rail. Jennifer Keep and Ellen Reckhow discussed that there was more vehicle acquisitions budgeted for FY18 than FY19. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs requested to have a made a graphic-oriented, one-page document that is able to be distributed to residents in order to demonstrate how the transit plan is being implemented. Mo Devlin and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs further discussed strategies for disseminating information to residents and community members, including audiovisual information. Pam Hemminger added that it is important to demonstrate to the public whether the transit plan is ahead or behind of its budgetary goals. Ellen Reckhow requested that certain pieces of information presented in this presentation be included in the Annual Report.

Jennifer Keep stated that the total amount of revenue brought in from Orange County in FY18 was \$17.5M with the half cent sales tax contributing the most at \$7.3M. Jennifer Keep continued that there were \$17.5M of expenditures, including expenditures for the light rail at \$13M. Pam Hemminger requested that information about the reserve funding be included in the Annual Report. Michael Parker asked if the sales tax revenue is on schedule for both counties in the Q1 of FY19. Jennifer Keep responded that tax-exempt agencies in Durham requesting a refund of the tax money led to smaller than expected revenues produced in Durham County during Q1 for FY18 therefore Durham is slightly behind revenue projections. Jennifer Keep added that she expects the same phenomenon to occur in Orange County. Jennifer Keep added that she expected the funding to back on target in the following Quarters of FY19.

170 Mo Devlin stated transit service can be funded into two parts; existing transit service and  
171 expansion for new service. Mo Devlin stated that funding existing transit services includes Orange  
172 County Public Transportation, Chapel Hill Transit, and GoDurham. Mo Devlin continued that the transit  
173 tax has also contributed to adding more transit service, including more frequent service, additional  
174 routes, and more service on holidays and weekends. Mo Devlin stated that there is a new transit service  
175 between Hillsborough and Alamance. Mo Devlin added that there is more Durham-Raleigh Express  
176 (DRX) service as well.

177 Mo Devlin stated that the transit tax also paid for new buses in Orange and Durham counties.  
178 Mo Devlin continued that bus stop improvements are budgeted for 2018 in both counties. Mo Devlin  
179 also stated that transit emphasis corridors, such as Chapel Hill Road near Lakewood, are also under  
180 budget consideration. Mo Devlin also stated that funding is budgeted for the Durham-Wake Commuter  
181 Rail, North-South Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and the Hillsborough Train station. Jenn Weaver and Mo  
182 Devlin discussed the role of North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) in the planning of the Hillsborough Train  
183 Station. Renee Price highlighted the need to in northern Orange County, along the Alamance Connector  
184 route, to have funding budgeted to increase the accommodations at bus stop facilities and improve  
185 pedestrian access to and from bus stop facilities.

186 John Tallmadge stated that the Durham Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) project is on track for the  
187 \$1.2B federal grant. John Tallmadge continued that GoTriangle is currently in the final negotiations with  
188 third parties and is in the process of implementing the final agreements. John Tallmadge stated Durham  
189 and Orange counties have submitted letters agreeing to an approach where additional transit tax  
190 dedicated revenues in Durham County would be committed to the D-O LRT project to make up for the  
191 shortfall, but that would need to then memorialize that amendment to the cost sharing agreements.  
192 John Tallmadge explained that, according to Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the commitments in  
193 those cost sharing agreements need to match the language and information that's in the transit plans.

John Tallmadge stated that GoTriangle must consult with FTA before language can be finalized, however, the federal government shutdown of 2018/2019 has complicated that timeline. John Tallmadge added that he is requested that the MPO Board authorize the release of the finalized Durham-Orange County transit plans, so that GoTriangle can release them on or before February 6 for the 21-day public comment period. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed that the transit plans would also be presented before the Durham County Board, Orange County Board, and the GoTriangle Board. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed that a special meeting of the MPO Board may need to be scheduled due to the time constraints. John Tallmadge stated that he is coordinating with the other regional boards. John Tallmadge and Chair Damon Seils discussed that the proposed amendments to the two transit plans will reflect what is included in the cost sharing agreement between the two counties, in addition to the commitments that Durham County made to address the State and public funding. Michael Parker asked how the tunnel and bridge for the DO-LRT in downtown Durham will be addressed.

Michael Parker made a motion to authorize to staff to release for public review and comment on or before February 6, 2019, the amendment for the Durham County and Orange County transit plans. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**10. DCHC MPO State of the Region 2018 Report (5 minutes)**  
**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that the LPA staff requests that the MPO Board review the draft DCHC MPO State of the Region 2018 Report and provide comments to Felix Nwoko by January 30, 2019. Aaron Cain added that the final report will be presented at the February DCHC MPO Board meeting. Aaron Cain stated that the report is filled with information of the overall region including population information, and does not include project planning or staff resources. Ellen Reckhow highlighted that, according to the State of the Region Report, between 2010 and 2016, population increased by 10% but miles travels increased by 92%, and added that transit use also increased by 10% between the years of 2013 and



2015. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested adding travel markets to this report, adding that John Hodges-Copple might have available information. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs added that travel market maps could also highlight the importance of the planned D-O LRT route.

This item is for informational purposes only, no action is necessary.

**11. Draft FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (10 minutes)**  
**Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Meg Scully stated that the DCHC MPO is required by federal regulations to prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. Meg Scully continued that funding for the UPWP is provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Meg Scully added that the UPWP must identify MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds. Meg Scully stated that the proposed schedule for UPWP development is for the draft FY2020 UPWP to be reviewed by the MPO Board and released for public comment on January 16, 2019. Meg Scully added that the MPO Board will be asked to hold a public hearing and approve the plan at their February meeting.

Meg Scully highlighted several aspects of the UPWP, including; funding tasks by category, accomplishments from FY18, and FTA 5303 & 5307 funding allocation by planning organization to the transit agency. Meg Scully added that the 20% local match to the LPA portion by jurisdiction will be approved when the UPWP is approved, and Meg Scully plans to work with local staff to ensure all numbers are correct and verified.

Renee Price made a motion to release the draft FY2020 UPWP for public comment. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**12. Overview of Transit-Oriented Development Guidebook for Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT)**  
**Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle**

Patrick McDonough stated that in the fall of 2016, GoTriangle and Gateway Planning initiated a federal grant-funded study of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) opportunities for the neighborhoods around the stations along the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) corridor. Patrick McDonough added that the primary output of this work is the TOD Guidebook, which contains approximately 550 pages of information that can also be obtained at the GoTriangle website. Patrick McDonough stated that the TOD Guidebook attempts to further the scope of ordinary guidebooks to include aspects such as; zoning, streets, public space, and affordable housing. Patrick McDonough stated that these four areas relate and link to the other three areas.

Patrick McDonough stated that from 2018-2057, local governments are projected to add \$1.4-1.9B of additional tax revenue with the D-O LRT. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Mike Fox commented that the tax rates appear to be conservative. Patrick McDonough stated that the conservative tax estimates were suggested by City and County financial departments. Mike Fox and Patrick McDonough also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of comparing the tax revenue of the Charlotte light rail project with the D-O LRT project due to the different economic climates.

Patrick McDonough stated that the TOD Guidebook is a series of light rail station area concept plans and associated public policy Action Step recommendations for: zoning, affordable housing, station area infrastructure, streets, public space, and parking. Patrick McDonough highlighted affordable housing because it was the one area that the Charlotte light rail planning commission missed an opportunity. Patrick McDonough stated that the topic of affordable housing continues to be a difficult subject not only for the Triangle region, but also for housing markets across the United States. Patrick McDonough stated that, after consulting with many experts in the field, there is no one correct way to resolve this issue and that many different approaches will need to occur. Patrick McDonough stated that adding both market rate housing and subsidized housing reduces displacement pressure. Patrick McDonough and Renee Price discussed the impacts of

gentrification on communities and how North Carolina does not have some of the same legislative powers as other states have in order to combat gentrification and displacement. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that as there are more people moving into Durham County, demand cannot currently keep up with supply and a housing shortage may emerge.

Patrick McDonough stated that Gateway Station and Patterson Place planning could lead to additional housing across housing markets. Patrick McDonough discussed the economic growth possibilities in addition to planning for bike/ped facility planning at the proposed Gateway Station and Patterson Place. Patrick McDonough stated that infrastructure work would be needed at Patterson Place to promote a higher housing density.

Patrick McDonough stated that the two most common land uses in the TOD Guidebook are multifamily housing and office units. There was discussion about market study for the DCHC MPO region and also three subregions of Chapel Hill, south Durham and Central Durham.

Michael Parker stated he was concerned that some of the plans for D-O LRT stations around Chapel Hill might not be exactly what local government would like to occur in that area. Michael Parker requested that the Town Chapel Hill staff meet with GoTriangle to rectify their visions for the light rail stations. Pam Hemminger added that there are three light rail stations on UNC property, and there would be no commercial development that would be taxable on their property, as was expressed by UNC staff. Patrick McDonough replied that he will coordinate with Chapel Hill staff as well as send a memorandum to Pam Hemminger to further explain the tax revenue situation on the UNC stations. Penny Rich stated that Gateway Station was moved closer to Orange County in order to increase its tax revenue potential.

This item is for informational purposes only, no action is necessary.

**13. FY2020-2029 Draft STIP**  
**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

On January 10, 2019, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) released the initial draft FY2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Aaron Cain stated that LPA staff estimated approximately \$100M of funding for Division Needs projects, but received only \$38M. Aaron Cain added that he has not received a definitive answer from NCDOT on the decrease in funding. Aaron Cain stated that DCHC was awarded six new Division Needs projects; two highway projects, two bike/ped projects, and two transit projects. Aaron Cain stated that the highway projects included NC 98 safety improvements from Junction Road to Lynn Road, and the right-of-way (ROW) is scheduled for FY26 and construction is scheduled for FY28. Aaron Cain added that projects that did not receive ROW funding by FY24 will need to be rescored in Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) 6. Aaron Cain added that the other highway project was the US 15-501 synchronized street in Chatham County, and the ROW is scheduled for FY25, which will need to be rescored in SPOT 6. Aaron Cain stated that one of the bike/ped projects is the Fordham Boulevard multiuse path from Willow Drive to Old Durham Road in Chapel Hill. Aaron Cain added that the other bike/ped project is the NC 54 side path in Carrboro from James Street to Anderson Park, and the ROW is for FY26, therefore it will need to be rescored in SPOT 6. Aaron Cain continued that the Chatham Transit Network is receiving three new ramp-equipped minivans in FY21, and the Orange Public transit is to receive two new light transit vehicles in FY21.

Aaron Cain added that the D-O LRT received state funding in FY24 through FY29, which make it a committed project that does not need to be rescored, however, there are additional state and legislative deadlines to be met. Aaron Cain also stated that the widening for I-85 in Orange County is scheduled to for construction in FY28, but the timeline may overlap with the I-85 widening in Durham County. Aaron Cain also added that the Churton Street widening and US 70 upgrade were both delayed by one year, but are still considered committed projects. Aaron Cain continued that US 15-501 in Chapel Hill was delayed two years, so it must be rescored, but he believes it will score well

enough to receive funding in SPOT 6. Aaron Cain added that there were five projects no longer in the STIP, including I-40 managed lanes, NC 54-Old Fayetteville Road intersection, West Ellis Road grade separation, Neal Road grade separation and the GoTriangle Regional Transit Center.

Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed the schedule for the FY2020-29 STIP, and they also discussed inviting NCDOT Secretary Trodgon to the MPO Board meeting in March.

**14. Amendment #9 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #9 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) consists of requests to add funds to four projects, and he referenced the agenda packet for further information.

Jenn Weaver made a motion to approve Amendment #9 to the FY2018-27 TIP. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**15. Amendment #10 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #10 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes two requests for bike/ped from the City of Durham, and since each project was over \$1M, they both will require a 21-day public comment period.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to release Amendment #10 to the FY 2018-27 TIP for a 21-day public comment period. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**16. Report from the Board Chair**

**Damon Seils, Board Chair**

Chair Damon Seils stated that, following the meeting, he and Aaron Cain will discuss scheduling a special meeting for February 27.

**17. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann stated that there will be three Durham Transportation Study workshops:

January 22 from 5p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham; January 25 from 11:30 a.m. –

1:30 p.m. at the Durham County Human Services Building; and January 26 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the

Durham Bus Station. Ellen Beckmann added that there is an online survey and encouraged everyone to

take the survey.

**18. Report from LPA Staff**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that there is training for any new MPO Board member who requests it.

**19. NCDOT Report**

Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, stated that bids were presented on January 15 for the

Hope Valley/University Drive roundabout, and Carolina Sunrock is likely to receive the project.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, discussed possible developments at Smith Level Road.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that he is in the process of securing funding for Jerimiah Drive

in Chatham County by raising a section of the roadway by six feet.

There was no comment from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD).

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

Chair Damon Seils stated that there is additional information regarding vehicle miles traveled,

which was discussed by Ellen Reckhow previously in the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

3:46 p.m.