

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

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**July 22, 2020**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on July 22, 2020 at 9:03 a.m. via the Webex conferencing platform. The following people were in attendance:

Nishith Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Zachary Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
Kayla Seibel (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham
Brooke Ganser (Member)	Durham County Planning
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Theo Letman (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	TJCOG
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
John Grant (Member)	NCDOT Traffic Operations
Jay Heikes (Member)	GoTriangle
Hank Graham (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Kurt Stolka (Member)	The University of North Carolina
Joe Geigle (Member)	FHWA (non-voting)
Matt Cecil (Member)	Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
Bill Judge (Alternate)	City of Durham Transportation
Meg Scully (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Bryan Kluchar (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Cha'ssem Anderson (Alternate)	University of North Carolina
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Casey Chae	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO

Sean Egan	City of Durham
Joe Milazzo	RTA
Taruna Tayal	VHB
Candance Andre	VHB
DeDreana Freeman	Resident
RJ Monroe	Resident

Quorum Count: 24 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified through the Webex participant list. Those members are indicated above.

**PRELIMINARIES:**

**2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Chair Nish Trivedi asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Aaron Cain stated that there were none.

**3. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**4. Approval of May 27, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

Chair Nish Trivedi asked if members had reviewed the May 27 meeting minutes and noted that several months had passed since the meeting. John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the May 27 meeting minutes. Meg Scully seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**5. 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry provided a presentation on the 2050 Goals and Objectives of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and an overview of the Goal and Objectives survey completed by 412 people so far. Responses from low-income and minority communities has been low. Andy Henry mentioned that

there has been conversation between DCHC MPO staff and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization regarding specific language for the MTP Goals and Objectives, particularly the equity goal. Andy Henry requested a recommendation for the MPO Board to review and approve the Goals and Objectives and empower a subcommittee to make any additional changes before the August Board meeting.

Kumar Neppalli made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing and approve the MTP Goals and Objectives as well as allow a TC subcommittee to make changes to the Goals and Objectives as needed. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. 2050 Public Engagement Plan and Schedule**  
**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry shared the Public Engagement Plan (PEP) and schedule for the MTP. He described the plan's contents and the processes used to share the PEP and schedule with specific communities (e.g. social media posts, emails, public affairs announcements, and newspapers). He also requested that the subcommittee be allowed to make any reasonable changes to the PEP if necessary.

Jomar Pastorelle made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing and approve the PEP and schedule and the subcommittee make appropriate changes as needed. Zachary Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. 2020 Environmental Justice Report**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips presented the Environmental Justice (EJ) report. She indicated that the MPO Board released the report draft for public comment at their May meeting and to date there have been no public comments. A suggestion was received from the TC to apply the methodology from the report to individual counties for projects like transit plans. Anne Phillips added that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was interested in understanding why there were fewer census block groups in the report than in the 2015 version. She explained that whole counties were examined in the 2015

report while only the portion of counties within the DCHC boundary were assessed for the current report.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing and adopt the EJ report. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

# **8. Freeway and Street Based Transit Study**

**Joe Milazzo, RTA Executive Director**

**Natalie Ridout, RTA Director for Member Engagement & Policy**

Joe Milazzo and Natalie Ridout provided an overview of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA), the rationale and purpose of the study, identified key funding partners such as GoTriangle and NCDOT, explained the role of project partners such as Stantec and VHB, and the underlying principle of “Accelerating Regional Connectivity.” Joe Milazzo explained that the Freeway And Street-based Transit (FAST) study is developing an illustrative, scalable approach to transform our roadways into multimodal corridors that can provide rapid, frequent, and reliable transit service across the region. The presenters used maps and other visuals to show how the business community plans to facilitate a rapid, effective, and scalable regional multimodal system. Joe Milazzo explained that the primary study goals are to complement investments, leverage future opportunities, and improve accessibility and opportunity across the region. Specific examples were provided that include highlighting additional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines in Chapel Hill and CAMPO, Commuter Rail Transit for Wake and Durham counties, and an analysis of ways to manage larger core activity areas such as downtown Durham and Duke, South Durham, Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and the Research Triangle Park (RTP).

Joe Milazzo concluded the presentation by stating that the FAST study has been coordinated and capitalizes on the ways that great work has already been done in this market, the investments that are being made, and all the great planning work that partners are doing in the region. Joe Milazzo invited the TC to submit feedback on the preliminary study and stated that more information is available at [Letsgetmoving.org/FAST](https://letsgetmoving.org/FAST).

There was discussion of whether any high-level cost estimates were available for the recommendations in the study.

There was discussion of how North Carolina Central University was incorporated into the study.

Sean Egan stated that this is a great example of complementing other initiatives in the City of Durham, such as the work being done on the Fayetteville Street Transit Emphasis Corridor.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for and received clarification about whether the trips described in the study were all trips or those most likely to be converted to transit.

This was an informational item.

**9. Chapel-Hill North/South Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Locally Preferred Alternative (LAP):**  
**Matt Cecil, Chapel Hill Transit/Planning**

Matt Cecil provided an update on the Chapel-Hill North/South Bus Rapid Transit (N-S BRT) project. He shared details on the 18-month traffic engineering efforts and added that the project was accepted into the Small Starts program by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). He also emphasized interactions with the Chapel-Hill Town Council and their collaborative efforts to address expanding some corridors (e.g., Eubanks to Southern Village) due to capacity issues. Streetlight data has been analyzed to identify the percentage of trips through the BRT corridor. Matt Cecil then described Chapel Hill's LPA for the BRT, including areas where buses would be traveling in dedicated lanes and where they would be traveling in mixed traffic.

After a conversation with members about avoidance of the erosion of the level of service and changes at high-volume intersections, Matt Cecil requested an action to recommend adoption of the resolution supported by the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Meg Scully made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the resolution to amend the LPA for N-S BRT. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**10. Amendment #2 to the FY2020-2029 TIP**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips presented on details related to Amendment #2 of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She emphasized three Durham projects that were primarily affected by delays. She also highlighted that the City of Durham has requested a modification related to the funding amount and the funding source for TA -4293, GoDurham Bus Acquisition. Anne Phillips added that supporting documents were included in the agenda packet.

Zachary Hallock made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #2 to the TIP. Pierre Osei-Owusu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

# **11. SPOT 6 Update**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain provided an update on the SPOT 6 submittal list. He indicated that the submittal deadline had shifted from May 1 to July 31, 2020, and highlighted changes that were made to the submittal list. These changes had been approved by the Chair and Vice Chair. Examples of the changes include: (1) Instead of widening Hopson Road in Durham, installing a quadrant intersection at Sherron, Patterson, Stallings, and NC-98 in accordance with the NC-98 corridor study ; and (2) instead of realigning Eno Mountain Road and Mayo Street in Hillsborough, installing two roundabouts on Orange Grove Road that may yield better travel time savings and enable the project to score better.

TC members posed questions about the changes as well as other projects such as the NC-751 project extending to US 64, which Aaron Cain confirmed.

This was an informational item.

## **REPORTS:**

# **12. Reports from Staff**

**Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager**

Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO is working on updates to the website as it has been 10 years since the last update. Felix Nwoko also shared that Durham was hit with a computer virus and MPO lost

three of its servers and the files on those servers would be migrated to the cloud. Felix Nwoko added that the MPO has currently recommended a candidate for the finance position that Meg Scully formerly held.

Finally, Dale McKeel provided an update on the Triangle Bikeway and funding for the Transportation Demand Management program. Dale McKeel reminded the council that the Triangle Bikeway is an 18-month planning project that would extend from Trenton Road in Raleigh through RTP and Durham to the 15-501 bypass in Chapel Hill. The working group on this project has discussed website development, a public comment map, and survey that will be available through the end of August. For the regional TDM program, Dale McKeel said that FY 21 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding should be approved by the N.C. Board of Transportation in the next two weeks, and that reimbursements would not be available for local service providers until NCDOT gets above their funding threshold.

**13. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**  
**Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

There was no report from the Chair.

**14. NCDOT Reports**

There was no additional report from Division 5.

There was no additional report from Division 7.

Stephen Robinson indicated that he has not heard anything about funding for Locally Administered Projects.

There was no additional report from Division 8.

There was no additional report from the Transportation Planning Division.

There was no additional report from Traffic Operations.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

Aaron Cain announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, via teleconference and added that everyone would need to register for the meeting because of the

206 Zoom Webinar format. Kurt Stolka inquired about updates on TDM funding. Dale McKeel responded  
207 that TDM funding is in the process of being approved by NCDOT and the TJCOG staff would be  
208 contacting the individual recipients to give them an update on their contracts.

209 **ADJOURNMENT:**

210 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was  
211 adjourned at 11:07 a.m.