

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

**13 January 2021**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on January 13, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Pierce Freelon (Member)	City of Durham
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Mike Fox (Member)	NCDOT
Javiera Caballero (Alternate)	City of Durham
Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
Sally Green (Alternate)	Orange County
Nish Trivedi	Orange County
John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Operations
John Hodges-Copple	TJCOG
Bryan Taylor	City of Durham
Joe Geigle	FHWA
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Jomar Pastorelle	Town of Chapel Hill
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Tasha Johnson	City of Durham
Theo Letman	Orange County Public Transit
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
Tamara Njegovan	NCDOT Division 7

Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO

Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call of MPO Board Members and Alternates was performed by Aaron Cain. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated above.

Chair Wendy Jacobs introduced Jamezetta Bedford and Sally Greene as the Orange County Member and Alternate, respectively. Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that Brenda Howerton and Nimasheena Burns will both be Alternates for Durham County. Mike Fox stated that Lisa Mathis will be the voting Alternate for North Carolina Department of Transportation at this meeting.

#### **PRELIMINARIES:**

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

Chair Wendy Jacobs 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.

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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

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

There were no public comments.

**5. Directives to Staff**

Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that there will be a report about the DCHC MPO Governance Study at the next MPO Board Meeting on February 10. Felix Nwoko stated that MPO staff has selected a consultant and they are working on the details of the contract.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**6. December 9, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes**

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**7. Draft Public Involvement Policy (PIP) and Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)**

**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips stated that MPO released the Draft Public Involvement Policy (PIP) and Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) for a 45-day public comment period starting on December 9, 2020. Anne Phillips stated that the LEP provides guidance on how the MPO will provide language assistance for people with limited English proficiency. Anne Phillips noted that the public comment period was advertised in local newspapers, the MPO website, and social media accounts. Anne Phillips stated that no public comments have been received, and no one has signed up to speak at the public hearing.

Chair Wendy Jacobs opened and then closed the public hearing with there being no comment from the public. There was discussion that the PIP and LEP will return for approval to the MPO Board on February 10.

There was no further action required by the MPO Board.

**8. Draft FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain noted that the Draft FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program is being presented to the MPO Board after changes were made based on comments made by the MPO Board at their December meeting. Aaron Cain stated that the UPWP is a document that is required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Aaron Cain continued that the UPWP programs and budgets the MPO activities for the upcoming fiscal year. Aaron Cain outlined the cost sharing initiatives for various types of funding.

Aaron Cain stated that top priorities for planning include reducing carbon emission, increasing climate resilience, and reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Aaron Cain noted that the UPWP sets aside funding for review of census data. Aaron Cain continued that the census data may result in changes to the MPO boundary.

Aaron Cain noted that there are 46 funding tasks that are grouped into sections. Aaron Cain listed a series of accomplishments, including the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and multiple corridor studies. Aaron Cain presented a summary of the funding sources and the total UPWP budget by agency. Aaron Cain noted that cost sharing in different jurisdictions has been determined by formula since 2014. Aaron Cain added that there is approximately \$1M of unobligated Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA) funds from NCDOT.

Aaron Cain listed the new initiatives. Aaron Cain noted that the Grant Management Oversight position is open at the DCHC MPO and should be filled soon. Aaron Cain stated that the UPWP would be brought back to the MPO Board for approval on February 10 following a 21-day public comment period. Aaron Cain added that the deadline to submit this to NCDOT following the approval by the FHWA and FTA is February 15.

Michael Parker and Felix Nwoko discussed that the 2020 census data will impact the FY2023 UPWP and the cost sharing formula therein. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how the current funding level

would impact the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program. Aaron Cain and John Hodges-Copple responded that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding is usually used for TDM, and the UPWP does not support TDM. John Hodges-Copple and Mike Fox discussed that state funding levels are returning to normal after loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mike Fox added that there are certain projects that were impacted by the loss of revenue, and he will inquire about the status of projects that were not let/lease.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to release the FY22 UPWP for a 21-day public comment period. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. FY21 UPWP Amendment #1**  
**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that the FY21 UPWP Amendment #1 moves funds from one line item to another in the current UPWP. Aaron Cain added that the Technical Committee (TC) Board recommended that the MPO Board approve Amendment #1.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve FY21 UPWP Amendment #1. Damon Seils seconded the motion. The most passed unanimously.

**10. Authorize Durham City Manager on behalf of DCHC MPO to enter into agreement with NCDOT for the Metropolitan Planning Program (Section 5303) Grant for FY21**  
**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO Board must authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with NCDOT for the FY21 Metropolitan Planning Program Grant. Felix Nwoko added that this is a routine annual activity.

Michael Parker made a motion to authorize the Durham City Manager to enter into the agreement with NCDOT on behalf of DCHC MPO. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. TIP Amendment #3**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips stated that projects amended by NCDOT in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) must be amended in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), so that both documents remain in concurrence. Anne Phillips added that the TIP Amendment #3 was released for a 21-day public comment period in December 2020. Anne Phillips stated that two public comments were received concerning (1) equitable engagement for NC 147 study and (2) the schedule for the Morreene Road sidewalk project. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how the public comments will be incorporated. Anne Phillips answered that the schedule for the Morreene Road sidewalk project has been adjusted. Anne Phillips added that there are plans to discuss the equitable engagement process with NCDOT as the NC 147 study progresses.

Charlie Reece discussed that there has been talk at the federal level of \$10B in funding for freeway removal. Charlie Reece discussed that certain projects were delayed at the state level despite the projects being funded exclusively at the federal and local levels. Charlie Reece expressed the desire to better work with NCDOT to prevent similar types of delays for mobility projects. Chair Wendy Jacobs expressed the potential for new opportunities for federal funding with the incoming Biden administration.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve TIP Amendment #3. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **12. US 15-501 Corridor Study**

**Andy Henry, LPA staff**

Andy Henry stated that the Board directed staff at the DCHC MPO Board Meeting in November 2020 to develop a proposal to better address mobility issues along the 15-501 corridor. Andy Henry reiterated that the MPO Board felt that vehicles were too heavily favored in the draft plan. Andy Henry added that there were also concerns about inadequate access around Patterson Place and New Hope Commons.

179 Andy Henry proposed to hire a consultant with technical expertise and that favors multimodal  
180 transportation to conduct some additional work related to the study. Andy Henry added that there will  
181 be a stakeholder group for Segment 1 and another stakeholder group for Segment 2. Andy Henry added  
182 that stakeholders will include previous participants, local staff, and elected officials. Andy Henry stated  
183 that the stakeholders would identify transportation needs, and two facilitated meetings would be  
184 scheduled to gather solutions. Andy Henry noted that, due to the pandemic, the format of these  
185 meetings is under discussion. Andy Henry noted that previous public comments will be addressed. Andy  
186 Henry stated that the MPO staff is working on the project scope. Andy Henry noted that any significant  
187 projects from the US 15-501 Corridor Study will be incorporated into the 2050 MTP.

188 Damon Seils recommended that the Goals and Objectives guide the new direction of the  
189 Corridor Study. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Vice Chair Jenn Weaver expressed concerned that the scope of  
190 the Corridor Study is too limited to specific areas. Andy Henry responded that the comments for  
191 Segments 3 and 4 were minor in comparison with Segments 1 and 2. Andy Henry proposed a third  
192 stakeholder group for Segments 3 and 4. Chair Wendy Jacobs voiced approval for that proposal. Aaron  
193 Cain noted that an expanded scope would translate to a higher cost and requested to bring this item  
194 back to the MPO Board for approval at a following meeting. Michael Parker recommended that aspects  
195 of high-capacity transit and new technology also be incorporated into the Corridor Study. Chair Wendy  
196 Jacobs voiced approval that this item be returned at the MPO Board Meeting on February 10.

197 There was no action required by the MPO Board for this item.

198 **13. 2050 MTP Performance Measures**  
199 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

200 Andy Henry stated the purpose of this action item is to review and provide comments for the  
201 Performance Measures for the 2050 MTP. Andy Henry introduced the major milestones, which included  
202 Goals and Objectives, Deficiency Analysis and Needs Assessment, Alternatives Analysis, Preferred  
203 Option, Adopted 2050 MTP, and Air Quality Conformity. Andy Henry noted that the Goals and

Objectives have already been determined. Andy Henry described that many Performance Measures have one objective while there are several objectives that have multiple Performance Measures. Andy Henry stated that there are eight Goals, 24 Objectives, 21 sets of Performance Measures, and 77 Values. Andy Henry added that Transportation Performance Measures (TPM) are included in Performance Measures. Andy Henry continued that the use of Performance Measures in the MTP could be used for other projects. Andy Henry noted that Performance Measures would later be used for upcoming milestones like Deficiency Analysis, Alternatives Analysis, and Preferred Option.

Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed that Michael Parker's comments were distributed before the meeting, but the MPO Board might not have had a chance to review them. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver suggested making the tables with the results and trends more user-friendly. Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested adding a dashboard and key performance indicators to make it more user-friendly for residents. Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested returning to the MPO Board with recommendations about the most important Performance Measures that reflect the Goals and Objectives of the DCHC MPO. Andy Henry responded that he would incorporate the comments from the MPO Board, including the comments from Michael Parker, into the next draft of the document and return to the MPO Board.

There was no action required by the MPO Board for this item.

**14. Joint DCHC-CAMPO MTP Scenario Framework**  
**John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

John Hodges-Copple stated that the Joint DCHC-CAMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Scenario Framework was created with Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). John Hodges-Copple discussed that 12 steps for the Scenario Framework include: (1) Build the Planning Tools, (2) Determine Vision, Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures, Targets; (3) Establish the Scenario Framework; (4) Create the Development and Mobility Investment Foundations for Each Scenario; (5) Adopt Population and Job Guide Targets to 2050; (6) Conduct a 'Deficiency and Deeds' Analysis; (7) Analyze a "Learning Scenario" Based on *Connect2045* and Updated Population and Job Data



and Forecasts; (8) Refine and Use Tools to Create Detailed Scenarios; (9) Conduct Alternatives Analysis of Scenarios; (10) Select a Preferred Scenario; (11) Complete 2050 MTP Report; and (12) Adopt the 2050 MTP, and Demonstrate Air Quality Conformity. John Hodges-Copple noted that the third and fourth step are currently taking place.

Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that MPO staff distribute the Conversation Starters as shown in the presentation to the MPO Board following the meeting. Damon Seils and John Hodges-Copple discussed that Key Hubs and Reinvestments Areas were not presented as alternative concepts. Michael Parker discussed how new technologies, including electric and autonomous vehicles, will impact future travel markets. Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed how transportation impacts other aspects of residents' lives, including the environment and quality of life. John Hodges-Copple discussed that he plans to present the finished framework to the MPO Board in April 2021.

There was no action required by the MPO Board for this item.

#### **15. Joint MPO Policy Priorities (15 minutes)**

##### **John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

John Hodges-Copple discussed that DCHC MPO and CAMPO developed legislative goals that could be easily communicated to elected officials in the North Carolina legislature. John Hodges-Copple stated that both MPOs developed key priorities that were presented to the Joint DCHC-CAMPO Board meeting on December 1. John Hodges-Copple listed the seven shared priorities: (1) Invest for Success; (2) Make Investments Reliable and Predictable; (3) Enable Critical Corridor Investments to be More Cost Effective; (4) Remove Funding Barriers for Small Towns and Rural Areas in Divisions with Large MPOs ; (5) Make North Carolina a Leader in Active Transportation Investments; (6) Strengthen Support for Demand-Management and Technology; and (7) Recognize Statewide Projects in Other Modes, Not Solely Roadways and Freight Technology.

Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that in previous years, this document was able to effectively persuade legislation for the benefit of the Triangle region. Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that MPO staff email this document to the MPO Board.

Damon Seils made a motion to adopt the revised Demand Management and Technology and Active Transportation policy initiatives, as well as the expanded Invest for Success. Vice Secretary Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **16. Report from the MPO Board Chair** **Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair**

Chair Wendy Jacobs stated MPO staff is working on estimating the additional allocation of COVID relief funding from the FTA.

##### **17. Report from the Technical Committee Chair** **Nish Trivedi, TC Chair**

Nish Trivedi stated that there was no additional report.

##### **18. Report from LPA Staff** **Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that \$21.4M of COVID relief funding was estimated to be allocated to the DCHC MPO.

##### **19. NCDOT Report**

Richard Hancock, Division 5, stated that there are ongoing utility issues for the Old Durham Road Bike-Ped project (EB-4707A), and the contractor is still finishing work near Wegmans. Richard Hancock added that the intersection at Alston Avenue and Holloway Street is scheduled to open in early February 2021. Richard Hancock stated that there are issues with Norfolk Southern for the East End Connector project, and its opening is scheduled for summer 2021.

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked about trash pickup along highways. Richard Hancock stated that operational funding is returning to pre-COVID levels, but the resumption of trash pickup has not yet been finalized by NCDOT. Lisa Mathis stated that trash pickup and lawn maintenance is a priority for NCDOT as funding increases.

Pat Wilson, Division 7, stated that Chapel Hill staff and NCDOT staff reviewed the road diets for Franklin Street and Main Street that will impact the road resurfacing project, which is scheduled to occur in summer 2021.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that there are no additional updates.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division, stated that CTP Amendment #2, which removed the Briggs Avenue extension, was adopted by the NC Board of Transportation last week.

John Grant, NCDOT Traffic Operations, stated that there are no additional updates.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked about the calendar updates. Aaron Cain stated that he will add it to the Consent Agenda for the MPO Board meeting on February 10.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.