

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

**11 August 2021**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on August 11, 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
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Mike Fox (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Javiera Caballero (Alternate)	City of Durham
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Josh Mayo	Town of Chapel Hill
Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Evian Patterson	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson	City of Durham Public Works
Kurt Stolka	The University of North Carolina
Cha'ssem Anderson	The University of North Carolina
Nita Bhawe	North Carolina State University
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration
Rachel Stair	Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority
Alpesh Patel	Cambridge Systematics
Patrick McDonough	HDR
Joe Milazzo II	Regional Transportation Alliance
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 5
Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD

42	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
43	Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
44	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
45	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
46	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
47	Casey Chae	DCHC MPO
48	Jake Ford	DCHC MPO
49	Kayla Mathews	DCHC MPO
50	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO
51	Heidi Perov	Resident

52 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

53 **1. Roll Call**

54 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The Voting Members and  
 55 Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated  
 56 above. Charlie Reece made a motion to excuse the absences of Board Members Pam Hemminger,  
 57 Damon Seils, and Pierce Freelon. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed  
 58 unanimously.

59 **PRELIMINARIES:**

60 **2. Ethics Reminder**

61 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of  
 62 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any  
 63 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by  
 64 MPO Board Members.

65 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

66 Dale McKeel pointed out the following adjustments to the agenda: 1) The City of Durham has  
 67 requested a letter of support from the MPO for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant application  
 68 that will be discussed during the MPO staff report, and 2) the recommended board action for Item 9

has been adjusted to include authorizing a 21-day public comment period for the Bus on Shoulder System (BOSS) study.

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

Joe Milazzo II, Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA), expressed support for the conversion of US 70 to a multimodal freeway as soon as possible and the US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study. Joe Milazzo II said RTA's overall hope for the future roadway is that it would become less of a barrier than it is today.

#### **5. Directives to Staff**

Chair Wendy Jacobs said there were no new directives to staff.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **6. June 9, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

#### **7. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #7**

**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **8. Resolution Recognizing Brian Rhodes' Service to the Transportation Department and DCHC MPO**

**Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

Chair Wendy Jacobs read the resolution to Honor Brian Rhodes and thanked him for his dedication to the City of Durham and the MPO. Several Board Members and staff shared stories of their time working with Brian Rhodes and wished him a very happy retirement.

Charlie Reece made a motion to adopt the resolution to recognize Brian Rhodes' service to the MPO. Lydia Lavelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **9. Bus on Shoulder Study**

**Patrick McDonough, HDR**

**Alpesh Patel, Cambridge Systematics**

Patrick McDonough stated that the primary goal of the study was to identify the most promising locations for BOSS expansion in the Triangle. Patrick McDonough said another goal of the study was to document best practices to create a blueprint to guide other regions interested in BOSS implementation as the peer review process revealed that little documentation exists on previous BOSS projects. Patrick McDonough shared the results of the study including cost estimates for incremental improvements and the creation of 24 recommended criteria for BOSS facility design and operation.

Alpesh Patel reviewed the suitability analysis of travel demand and transit operations metrics using Triangle Regional Model (TRM) data. Alpesh Patel shared that overall, primary BOSS expansion opportunities occur mostly along interstates that connect core destinations and BOSS is more suitable when traffic is more challenging. These findings were depicted in the color coded suitability map that includes 75 miles of tier 1 facilities (most suitable) in the Triangle region for monetary return on investment. Alpesh Patel shared the suitability map overlaid with State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects to demonstrate Traffic System Management Operations (TSMO) projects already planned within the next 10 to 20 years. This map helps facilitate joint visioning and coordinated decision making to serve state and local partner interests as well as evaluate and potentially re-scope future STIP projects to include BOSS deployment.

Patrick McDonough discussed the future steps of continuing active dialogue among Triangle BOSS team members, and MPOs and transit agencies can work with NCDOT on which STIP projects could incorporate BOSS. Dale McKeel pointed out the adjustment to the MPO Board action to recommend the BOSS study be released for a 21-day public comment period. Michael Parker asked if the roads shown as most suitable for BOSS already have buses running on them. Patrick McDonough said the amount of transit currently utilized on segments was one of the criteria for the suitability analysis, as well as current and projected transit frequency. Charlie Reece expressed interest in the study and said it is a great way to increase bus performance in a cost effective manner. Chair Wendy Jacobs said this is a

study the MPO can encourage NCDOT to implement and that she looks forward to the public comment period and the next steps to apply the recommendations in the study.

Michael Parker made a motion to authorize a 21-day public comment period for the BOSS study.

Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**10. 2050 MTP – Alternative Analysis**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry shared a presentation on the status of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Alternative Analysis timeline, public engagement schedule, the updated website, and metrics and maps. Andy Henry said the Alternative Analysis was released on July 29, 2021 and the public comment period will extend through September 15, 2021. Andy Henry stated the preferred scenario and the Air Quality Conformity Report should be ready for MPO Board adoption in January or February of 2022 before the current MTP lapses on February 21, 2022. Public engagement will be aligned with the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) schedule and will include a survey, online workshops, in-person pop-ups, presentations to local boards and commissions, a public hearing, email and social media notifications, and possibly focus groups for communities of concern. Andy Henry mentioned the DCHC MPO website has more in depth information and interactive maps.

Andy Henry highlighted the importance of the significant population and jobs growth and land use plans with increased density and mixed uses at employment hubs and travel corridors. Andy Henry gave a brief overview of the three scenarios, the Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs), emissions metrics, congestion maps, equity measures, and other metrics. At the regional level, there are only small changes in the MOEs amongst the three scenarios, but the trends are improving. Andy Henry said public engagement is underway, the technical work will commence to develop the preferred option, and coordination is occurring with the Durham and Orange County Transit Plans.

Michael Parker suggested establishing goals and targets first and then creating scenarios to achieve those goals rather than beginning with creating scenarios that don't provide much change in the

performance metrics. Andy Henry said the MTP's performance measures are in line with the MPO's recently adopted goals and objectives, though there is not a specific target for each performance measure. Andy Henry said it is difficult to see vast changes amongst the scenarios, so any movement in the right direction is encouraging. Andy Henry will discuss with MPO staff members what can be done about the order of the scenario development process in conjunction with targeted goals.

Lydia Lavelle stated a question that Heidi Perov posted in the chat about how performance measures only apply to cars and if any other levels of service are considered. Andy Henry said the TRM is not sensitive to investments in other types of infrastructure such as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver agreed with Michael Parker's comments about setting targets first and then deciding what can be done to meet the targets. Heidi Perov asked about commute times for transit riders, and Andy Henry said that information will be made available on the website. Amy Ryan agreed with Vice Chair Jenn Weaver and Michael Parker that aggressive action to mitigate climate change is necessary and that setting targets first may help. Amy Ryan suggested changing the model as much as possible to incorporate data for other modes of transportation.

Ellen Beckmann elaborated on coordination with the Durham and Orange Transit Plans with a consistent engagement message and an aim to adopt the plans in tandem. Chair Wendy Jacobs said the MPO needs a new model and is concerned that there is not much of a difference between scenarios and even the most aspirational scenario with highest level of investment is not showing much difference in the MOEs.

This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

#### **11. US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study Introduction**

**Jake Ford, LPA Staff**

Jake Ford, project manager for the US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study, gave an update on the purpose and scope of the study. NCDOT STIP project U-5720 includes the conversion of US 70 from a rural highway to a controlled access freeway and was frozen by NCDOT along with the US 70 project on

the Wake County side (U-5518). Jake Ford said that Wake County is proceeding with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and environmental assessment for the project later this year and there is ample time on the Durham County side to study how the current plans for US 70 impact the corridor and the broader community. Jake Ford mentioned Durham City and County staff have raised several concerns over multimodal access, safety, environmental justice, equity, and congestion.

Jake Ford said the Request for Information (RFI) was released on August 4, 2021 and the final plan is slated for completion in Spring 2023. Jake Ford pointed out the attached letter asking NCDOT to delay any scheduled work related to Durham County US 70 Corridor as the study proceeds. Brandon Jones proposed working concurrently with NCDOT design staff on the study.

Javiera Caballero made a motion to authorize the MPO Board Chair to sign the letter addressed to Brandon Jones of NCDOT requesting incorporation of this study and its findings into the development of U-5720. Lydia Lavelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**12. SPOT 6.0 Update**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Mike Fox provided some information on the STIP, which is the 10-year plan of what projects will be constructed, of which the first 5 years of projects are locked in and the second 5 years is subject to change. Mike Fox added that NCDOT must ensure the STIP is fiscally constrained and they have run into an issue with project cost overruns. Mike Fox stated that NCDOT does not have a revenue problem, but a cost problem. Because projects costs in the STIP are greater than the amount NCDOT has to spend, the STIP needs to be revised. The SPOT workgroup is looking at options, and have asked MPOs and RPOs to provide input on what projects should be included in the STIP. Anne Phillips added that the SPOT 6.0 was cancelled by the SPOT workgroup.

Chair Wendy Jacobs brought up the Federal Infrastructure Bill that may present more opportunities for federal funding, which Mike Fox said could help solve some of the problems, though

not all of them. Chair Wendy Jacobs said the MPO needs to be strategic about what projects may have a better shot at federal funding and should therefore be withheld from the STIP. Charlie Reece questioned the complete cancellation of SPOT 6.0 considering the likely influx of federal money soon and said that there is a revenue problem, especially for projects that are not focused on moving more cars faster. Charlie Reece advocated for low-cost projects that would drastically increase bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested a letter from the MPO to NCDOT and the NC Board of Transportation outlining the MPO's thoughts on SPOT 6.0 and reprogramming the STIP. Anne Phillips suggested a joint letter with the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO). Ellen Beckmann mentioned the last STIP was created in 2017 when the focus of the MPO was on the now discontinued Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project and the MPO has changed priorities over the last four years, which should be pointed out in the letter to NCDOT. Javiera Caballero said there is not alignment with the community priorities and the projects NCDOT chooses to fund, and the lack of transparency is frustrating.

This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

**13. Return to In-Person MPO Board Meetings**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Chair Wendy Jacobs tabled this item due to the rise of the COVID-19 Delta variant and Durham's increase in 7-day average cases and testing positivity rates.

**REPORTS:**

**14. Report from the MPO Board Chair**  
**Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair**

Chair Wendy Jacobs reminded MPO Board members to fill out the governance survey by August 13, 2021. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked about next steps for implementation of the Triangle Bikeway study and Dale McKeel said there will be a presentation at the joint MPO Board meeting on September 29, 2021.



**15. Report from the Technical Committee Chair****Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

Ellen Beckmann mentioned a discussion during the July 28, 2021 TC meeting about the implementation of NCDOT's Complete Streets Policy. Ellen Beckmann said a meeting is being organized for NCDOT to provide an update to anyone interested, and subsequently an update may be brought to the TC and MPO Board.

**16. Report from LPA Staff****Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

Dale McKeel mentioned the letter of support requested from the City of Durham for their grant application to the Federal Transit Administration. Evian Patterson provided more details on the grant application for projects that will provide equitable access to transit under the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program.

Charlie Reece made a motion to authorize the MPO Board chair to sign the letter of support for the City of Durham. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

There was no additional report.

**Brandon Jones (David Keilson/Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT**

Brandon Jones provided project updates on the East End Connector and statewide updates on costly litter collection efforts.

**Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT**

Pat Wilson had no additional report. Lydia Lavelle mentioned the issues with markings and safety at the Estes Dr. & North Greensboro Roundabout and Pat Wilson said he will look into solutions. Amy Ryan thanked Division 7 for a quick turnaround to get bike lanes marked during a repaving project for Culbreth Road.

**Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT**

244 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

245 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT**

246 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

247 **John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

248 John Grant had no additional report.

249 **Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division - NCDOT**

250 There was no additional report.

251 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

253 There was no discussion on informational items.

254 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

256 11:18 a.m.