

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

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 25, 2021**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. through a teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Ellen Beckmann (Chair) Durham County  
Nishith Trivedi (Vice Chair) Orange County  
Evan Tenenbaum (Member) City of Durham Transportation  
Tasha Johnson (Member) City of Durham Public Works  
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member) City of Durham Transportation/GoDurham  
Brooke Ganser (Member) Durham County  
Scott Whiteman (Member) Durham County  
Tina Moon (Member) Carrboro Planning  
Zach Hallock (Member) Carrboro Planning  
Bergen Watterson (Member) Town of Chapel Hill  
Josh Mayo (Member) Town of Chapel Hill  
Kumar Neppalli (Member) Chapel Hill Engineering  
Margaret Hauth (Member) Town of Hillsborough  
Chance Mullis (Member) Chatham County Planning  
John Hodges-Copple (Member) TJCOG  
Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle  
Julie Bogle (Member) NCDOT TPD  
Brandon Jones (Member) NCDOT Division 5  
John Grant (Member) NCDOT Traffic Operations  
Kurt Stolka (Member) The University of North Carolina  
Michael Page (Member) North Carolina Central University  
Tom Altieri (Member) Orange County Planning  
Theo Letman (Member) Orange Public Transportation  
Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle  
Travis Crayton (Member) Research Triangle Foundation  
Bill Judge (Alternate) City of Durham  
Brian Taylor (Alternate) City of Durham Transportation  
David Keilson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5  
Stephen Robinson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 7  
Bryan Kluchar (Alternate) NCDOT Division 8  
Matt Cecil (Alternate) Chapel Hill Transit/Planning  
Meg Scully (Alternate) GoTriangle  
Chassem Anderson (Alternate) The University of North Carolina

Joe Geigle, Federal Highway Administration  
Rachel Stair, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority

43 Sean Egan, City of Durham  
 44 Evian Patterson, City of Durham  
 45 Tom Devlin, City of Durham Transportation  
 46 Jeron Monroe, NCDOT Division 8  
 47 Nick Tuttle, NCDOT TPD  
 48 Nita Bhawe, North Carolina State University

49 Brian Rhodes, DCHC MPO  
 50 Felix Nwoko, DCHC MPO  
 51 Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO  
 52 Anne Phillips, DCHC MPO  
 53 Andy Henry, DCHC MPO  
 54 Dale McKeel, City of Durham/DCHC MPO  
 55 Yanping Zhang, DCHC MPO  
 56 Kayla Peloquin, DCHC MPO  
 57 Jake Ford, DCHC MPO  
 58 Mariel Klein, DCHC MPO

59 Quorum count: 27 of 31 voting members

60 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

61 **PRELIMINARIES:**

62 **1. Roll Call**

63 The roll call was completed using the Zoom participant list. Aaron Cain introduced Travis  
 64 Crayton as a new TC voting member representing the Research Triangle Foundation.

65 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

66 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

67 **3. Public Comments**

68 There were no public comments.

69 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

70 **4. Approval of the July 28, 2021 TC Meeting Minutes**

71 There was no discussion on the consent agenda. Margaret Hauth made a motion to  
 72 approve the consent agenda. Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed  
 73 unanimously.

74 **ACTION ITEMS:**

75 **5. 2050 MTP – Alternative Analysis**  
 76 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

77           Andy Henry shared a presentation on the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)  
78   Alternative Analysis timeline, public engagement schedule, and a preliminary look at projects for  
79   the Preferred Option. Andy Henry said a public hearing will be conducted at the September 1,  
80   2021 MPO Board meeting and the Preferred Option will be released for public comment in  
81   October 2021. Andy Henry said attendance was high at recent online workshops with the  
82   Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) and focus groups will meet in September 2021. Andy Henry  
83   shared the preliminary findings of investments that received the most support including  
84   bicycle/pedestrian investments, commuter rail, transit, and reduction of carbon emissions. More  
85   information on public feedback will be presented at the September 1, 2021 MPO Board meeting.

86           Andy Henry shared preliminary financial information on expected revenues for the 2050  
87   MTP comparing the three alternatives to the 2045 MTP financial information. Andy Henry stated  
88   that the budget for highway projects won't be as tight as the 2045 MTP, but estimates are not  
89   yet finalized for transit projects. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked about the source of NCDOT's  
90   forecasts and Andy Henry said the figures are based on NCDOT's revenue model. There was a  
91   discussion on revenues for new and expanded transit services that decreased significantly from  
92   the 2045 revenues due to the removal of the 50% federal share for the former Durham-Orange  
93   Light Rail Transit project and federal funding has not yet been added for projects being  
94   considered in the 2050 MTP. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out the disproportionate increase in  
95   general State and Federal funding, which is mainly used for highway projects, while the  
96   maintenance and operations as well as transit funding categories are not increasing  
97   proportionately or are even decreasing. John Hodges-Copple added that revenues shown on  
98   the preliminary financial information slide are based on both the current State Transportation  
99   Improvement Program (STIP) revenue spreadsheet and the NC Moves revenue spreadsheet.

100           Andy Henry continued the presentation with a map of preliminary highway and  
101   interchange costs, a table of the top 20 most costly projects from 2045 MTP, and preliminary

transit project possibilities. Andy Henry said bus transit was not listed in the 2045 MTP but it needs to be included in the financial plan and the travel model. Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested including at least the major bus routes in the MTP where bus advantage infrastructure could be incorporated into larger highway projects that would help buses run faster and more reliably. There was a discussion on the difficulty of achieving what the MPO Board would like to achieve, what factors could have an impact on performance metric outputs, and the influence of land use policies on the achievability of the MTP goals.

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

#### **6. SPOT 6.0 and STIP Reprogramming Update**

**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain confirmed that SPOT 6.0 has been discontinued and quantitative project scores will be available in September. Aaron Cain said NCDOT is planning to have a draft STIP in late summer/early fall of 2022. Aaron Cain summarized that overall, there is not enough money to cover committed projects in the STIP, so the SPOT workgroup is providing guidance on how to reprogram the STIP and making sure MPOs' concerns are heard during this process. Evan Tenenbaum asked that the letter emphasize lower cost bike and pedestrian safety projects and provided some examples. Anne Phillips mentioned that the purpose of this letter is to state the desire for MPOs to have a say in the STIP reprogramming process, but specific projects can still be listed to demonstrate the MPO's priorities.

Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board Chair sign the letter to NCDOT with the additional comments provided. Evan Tenenbaum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Bus on Shoulder Study**

**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips said MPO staff would like to be able to incorporate aspects of the Bus on Shoulder System (BOSS) study into the 2050 MTP, so the Board is being asked to adopt the study. Anne Phillips stated that no public comments were received. Aaron Cain added that adopting the BOSS study does not preclude other options such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), but rather that BOSS can be looked into for the appropriate time and facility.

Sean Egan mentioned the cost estimates shown in the BOSS study seem low and suggested further refinement of cost estimates through the county transit plan process. Chair Ellen Beckmann agreed with previous comments that the most cost effective way to accomplish a BOSS project would be in conjunction with an NCDOT maintenance project or a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project.

Jay Heikes made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the BOSS Study. Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #7**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips said that no public comments have been received so far. Anne Phillips added that if confirmation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding is confirmed soon, CMAQ funded projects will be added to TIP Amendment #7 before the MPO Board votes to approve the amendment.

Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve TIP Amendment #7 with the inclusion of CMAQ projects, if possible. Julie Bogle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. FY22 UPWP Amendment Schedule**  
**Mariel Klein, LPA Staff**

Mariel Klein reviewed the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) proposed FY22 amendment schedule. The first UPWP amendment is planned to go to the MPO Board in December 2021 and the second amendment in April 2022.

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

## **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

### **10. Report from Staff** **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain pointed out the attached materials on the NCDOT litter sweep. Dale McKeel provided an update on the bipartisan federal infrastructure bill, which was recently passed by the U.S. Senate and is awaiting action by the U.S. House of Representatives. The proposed bill includes large amounts of funding for highways and rail, and not as much as originally requested for transit. Dale McKeel stated the separate human infrastructure bill is still being worked on as well. Chair Ellen Beckmann mentioned that there may be more opportunities for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants with the passage of the bills.

Andy Henry provided an update on Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #3 and said the problem statements have been mostly completed. Andy Henry said Amendment #3 is scheduled to go to the Technical Committee in October 2021 and the MPO Board in November 2021. Aaron Cain raised the question of return to in-person meetings, and Chair Ellen Beckmann said the Technical Committee has agreed to continue remote meetings for the foreseeable future.

### **11. Report from the Chair** **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

Chair Ellen Beckmann brought up NCDOT's Complete Streets Guidelines and stated that a small meeting with NCDOT was held on August 24, 2021 to discuss the implementation of the guidelines and begin planning a larger meeting or presentation for October or November.

### **12. NCDOT Reports** **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT**

David Keilson mentioned the Alston Avenue project has reopened a section of Holloway Street that was closed and full project completion is slated for late 2022. The East End Connector project is facing railroad related challenges and completing the project by the end of 2021 would be difficult.

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

Pat Wilson highlighted a few new all-way stops at various intersections. Pat Wilson said the I-3306A (I-40 widening project) has been advertised.

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

Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

**Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT**

Julie Bogle introduced TPD's new transportation planning associate, Nicholas Tuttle, who will be with the TPD for about two months.

**John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

John Grant said funding was recently obtained for a signal at Garrett Road and Pickett Road. John Grant mentioned a small safety guardrail protection project along 15-501 Business at the 751 interchange. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for an update on pedestrian crossings and sidewalk connections to bus stops at the Mineral Springs and NC 98 intersection, and John Grant said he will follow up with more information. Dale McKeel asked if a roundabout was considered at the intersection of Garrett Road and Pickett Road, and John Grant said that is was not considered because roundabouts can become expensive and funding can become more difficult to obtain.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ellen Beckmann at 10:39 a.m.

**Next meeting: September 22, 9 a.m., meeting to be held via teleconference**