

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

26 July 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on July 26, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Ellen Beckmann (Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (Vice Chair)	Hillsborough Planning
Kayla Seibel (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Terry Bellamy (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Cooperative Extension
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Cara Coppola (Member)	Chatham County Planning
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Gretchen Coperine (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Bryan Poole (Alternate)	City of Durham Transportation
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Jen Britt (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Craig Benedict (Alternate)	Orange County
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
Mohammed Islam	City of Durham Transportation
Don Bryson	VHB
Taruna Tayal	VHB

Rachel Gaylord-Miles
Bahaj More
Evan Tenenbaum
Cy Stober

WSP
NCDOT
City of Durham
City of Mebane

Quorum Count: 23 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A roll call was performed. The voting members and alternate voting members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded meeting attendees that the DCHC MPO requires a notice from the chief officer of their organization if they will become voting members or alternates of the TC.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.

Felix Nwoko drew attention to attachments related to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Alternatives Analysis, and two other items related to the DCHC MPO's request for a new transit planner.

3. Public Comments

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of May 24, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes

Hannah Jacobson made a motion to approve the May 24, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Resolution in Support of Vision Zero Durham

Terry Bellamy

Terry Bellamy shared the overarching vision, core principles, and a brief history of the Vision Zero program. He also shared crash data for Durham County and discussed the strategies of the Vision Zero Durham program. Terry Bellamy reviewed the upcoming schedule of Vision Zero Durham events and led TC meeting attendees in taking the Vision Zero Durham pledge.

Bergen Watterson inquired whether the meeting with Leah Shahum, founder and director of the Vision Zero Network, was opened to other TC members, and Terry Bellamy confirmed that it was. Terry Bellamy commented on the importance of partnerships and educational outreach in achieving a successful Vision Zero Durham program.

Hannah Jacobson and Terry Bellamy discussed whether citywide speed limits in Durham would be adjusted in accordance with studies about the impact of speed on fatalities.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to forward the Vision Zero Durham resolution to the MPO Board. Laura Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Authorize Durham City Manager on behalf of DCHC MPO to enter into agreement with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the Metropolitan Planning Program Grant (Section 5303) for FY18

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

The Metropolitan Planning Program Grant (Section 5303) scope and budget for FY18 were approved by the MPO Board as part of the FY18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on February 8, 2017. The Durham City Manager, on behalf of DCHC MPO, is the contractor's authorized representative for the agreement between NCDOT and the City of Durham. The MPO Board must authorize the City Manager to enter into agreement with NCDOT.

Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board authorize the Durham City Manager to enter into agreement with NCDOT. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. FY18 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Schedule and FY18 Grant Reporting Due Dates

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

DCHC MPO is required by federal regulations to prepare an annual UPWP that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. On February 8, 2017, the DCHC MPO Board approved the FY18 UPWP with a period of performance from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018. Meg Scully called attention to the August 25, 2017, deadline for processing the first amendment, and the grant reporting due date table in the agenda packet.

This item was informational and no further action was required by the TC.

8. FFY17 Section 5307/5340 FULL Apportionment Split Letter (5 minutes)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Section 5307/5340 funds are allocated to urbanized areas for transit capital and operating assistance, and for transportation planning. The MPO's full apportionment for FFY17 for each program was released by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) Staff, in consultation with the four fixed-route transit operators, developed a recommended distribution of this funding. A split letter to FTA regarding the allocation of these funds among transit operators must be approved by the MPO Board to authorize transit operators to seek applications for funding.

Bergen Watterson made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the distribution and endorse the attached FFY17 full apportionment split letter. John Hodges-Copple seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meg Scully reminded the TC about the training for sub-recipients of UPWP planning funds that was scheduled after the TC meeting.

9. FY2018-27 TIP Update

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain drew attention to an attachment showing the list of DCHC MPO projects that made it into the recently released State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and that will therefore be incorporated into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He briefly discussed the schedule for developing the TIP, and the required public comment periods and public hearings. Aaron Cain discussed

NCDOT's recommendation that three projects, the grade separation at Blackwell Street/Mangum Street and two managed lane projects on I-40, be removed from consideration in Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) 5.0. Aaron Cain stated that Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) awards were recently released, and that the MPO received funding for all of its requested projects. He added that a couple of TIP numbers may be changing.

There was discussion of whether the I-40 managed lanes projects could be removed from the TIP while staying in the STIP.

Aaron Cain and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed draft municipal agreements for CMAQ projects.

In response to a question from John Hodges-Copple, Aaron Cain clarified that the Blackwell/Mangum project is a rail project. There was discussion of how rail projects are funded, and how funding would be reallocated if the Blackwell/Mangum project is removed from the STIP. Chair Ellen Beckmann inquired whether the TC action needed to be modified to reflect that the recommended MPO Board action was removing the three projects from the TIP, not the STIP, and that the draft TIP should be released for public comment by August 23, 2017. There was discussion of whether there was any advantage to removing the three projects from the TIP immediately, or waiting for SPOT 5.0 scoring. Chair Ellen Beckmann, John Hodges-Copple, and Geoff Green discussed whether removing the Blackwell/Mangum project from the TIP, and not the STIP, would be a problem for GoTriangle. John Hodges-Copple and Geoff Green discussed how the Blackwell/Mangum project would be rescored in SPOT 5.0.

Geoff Green made a motion to recommend to the MPO Board that projects I-5702A, I-5702B, and P-5710 be removed from the STIP, and that the MPO Board release the draft TIP for public comment on or by August 23, 2017. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. SPOT 5.0 Update

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

150 Aaron Cain discussed the overlap between the TIP and SPOT schedules, and stated that he
151 would notify the SPOT office that the three projects discussed in the previous agenda item would not be
152 resubmitted for prioritization in SPOT 5.0. Aaron Cain drew attention to handouts detailing the
153 proposed modifications and deletions for SPOT 5.0. He noted that the Divisions, along with any MPOs
154 and Rural Planning Organization (RPOs) in which a project is situated must concur with any
155 modifications and deletions from SPOT 5.0 for Carryover projects. Aaron Cain noted that Division 5 has
156 already agreed to the modification of a couple of developmental projects, and that he needed to make a
157 correction to the U-5720C project to reflect that only part of that project would be removed and that a
158 multi-use path would be added to the project. Aaron Cain reviewed modifications that would be made
159 to several projects. He noted that projects that were moved in the most recent STIP from
160 developmental to committed cannot be modified through the SPOT process, but that these projects
161 could be modified through other avenues.

162 Aaron Cain suggested that Transportation Secretary James Trogdon's request to the Divisions to
163 investigate alternative scoring criteria for the SPOT process should be discussed. Aaron Cain stated that
164 Divisions 5, 7, and 8 developed a framework for alternate criteria. Aaron Cain discussed these
165 alternative criteria, especially how freight scores and safety would be taken into consideration, and how
166 such alternative criteria might affect the DCHC MPO.

167 Aaron Cain reviewed NCDOT's definition of accessibility and connectivity in response to an
168 inquiry from Vice Chair Margaret Hauth.

169 There was discussion of whether there was any data on freight on NC 751, and whether freight
170 data is only available for interstates and US routes.

171 Geoff Green and Pat Wilson discussed NCDOT's decision not to concur with the changes to
172 various projects along US 15-501 to change them away from capacity improvements.

Aaron Cain clarified that this year, unlike in previous years, the MPO Board has to vote not to use alternate criteria and stick with the default criteria.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Terry Bellamy discussed the fact that congestion outweighs safety in Region C. Aaron Cain stated that several other MPOs would have to agree to changes regarding safety versus congestion in Region C, and that freight was considered more of a priority than safety in a recent meeting with other members from Region C. There was continued discussion of the decisions of various Regions regarding freight and the boundaries of various regions.

Aaron Cain pointed out that the MPO Board already approved the modifications and deletions subject to future changes after discussion with the Divisions, and that they may not need to endorse the most recent changes.

Aaron Cain promised to follow up with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization about changes to project U-5518.

Cara Coppola made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board endorse the proposed alternate criteria for highway projects in SPOT 5.0. Laura Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – Alternatives Analysis

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry discussed the schedule for developing and adopting the 2045 MTP, and drew attention to deadlines that the MPO needs to meet in order to avoid triggering new requirements or a plan lapse. Andy Henry stated that the Alternatives Analysis was an opportunity for staff, the public and the MPO Board to begin talking about solutions to different deficiencies, and how different aspects of the Alternatives Analyses will be used to create the final MTP. Andy Henry differentiated the four Alternative Analysis scenarios from each other, and discussed the methodology that was used to create the scenarios. He also discussed the performance measures, such as travel isochrones, that will be used to evaluate the scenarios. Andy Henry also reviewed the color key on the congestion maps, and

discussed the comparison of Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) near the proposed light rail and other high-end transit to the overall region.

Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the kinds of trips that were used in the scenarios.

Andy Henry discussed the travel time index and the methodology he used to calculate the cost of congestion. Andy Henry clarified that data for other corridors is available, and the only restriction on corridors is that they need to be within the modeling area/DCHC MPO boundary. There was discussion of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill employment data that was used for the scenarios.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed whether the highway and transit networks have been informed by fiscal constraint. The Alternatives are not fiscally-constrained. Andy Henry discussed how the fact that SPOT funding is divided into statewide, regional, and division funding affects the projects in the MTP.

Craig Benedict and Andy Henry discussed why the Volume to Capacity (V/C) analysis of US 15-501 shows a free flow of traffic.

Craig Benedict made a motion to forward the Alternatives Analysis to the MPO Board based on input from the TC subcommittee, and recommend that the MPO Board release the Alternatives Analysis for a 42-day public comment period. Cara Coppola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. New Position for Transit Planning Services for DCHC MPO

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

The Durham and Orange County Transit Plans, adopted in April 2017, include an expectation that each county would create a Staff Working Group (SWG) to develop Annual Transit Work Plans and review quarterly progress reports on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit and other transit projects and services. Furthermore, the plans envision and fund an administrator to provide services to support the SWGs. Subsequent discussions between DCHC MPO, GoTriangle, and Triangle J Council of

Governments (TJCOG) have determined that a position should be housed within the DCHC MPO to serve these functions. The position would also perform transit planning and other duties for the DCHC MPO in addition to serving the SWGs.

Geoff Green pointed out that the planner would not be creating the annual work plans, but coordinating their creation. Felix Nwoko confirmed that this was the case and that this would be reflected in the job description when the job is advertised. Craig Benedict noted that in some instances, the description of the position indicates that the planner would serve SWGs (plural), while in others it states that the position would serve a SWG (singular). He asked that the language in the description for the position be made consistent. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed how the position would be funded. Felix Nwoko confirmed that the position was a permanent one in response to an inquiry from Cara Coppola. Craig Benedict suggested that there should be some discussion of how the position would be evaluated given that it is a joint position.

Kumar Neppalli made a motion to recommend to the MPO Board that the position of transit planner to support the recently adopted Durham and Orange County Transit Plans be approved. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

13. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko provided updates on the US 15-50 and the NC 54 West corridor studies. He also noted that the Intelligent Transportation Systems project would be kicking off shortly.

Geoff Green and Felix Nwoko discussed the status of the toll study. Cara Coppola and Felix Nwoko discussed the termini of the US 15-501 study. Felix Nwoko confirmed that the staff reports would be updated to reflect these studies in response to an inquiry from Chair Ellen Beckmann.

14. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that there was a recent meeting to discuss adding a roundabout at Hope Valley Road and University Drive. In response to a question from Laura Woods, Chair Ellen Beckmann confirmed that there is room for the roundabout and that no structures would be impacted by the roundabout.

15. NCDOT Reports

Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, provided details for a public meeting that would be held to discuss newly proposed roadway closures related to the East End Connector project. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Richard Hancock discussed the proposed length of the closures. Richard Hancock also discussed upcoming closures on Angier Avenue and NC 147. He also stated that the pouring of the deck of the new bridge over NC 147 at Alston Avenue was about to occur and that traffic would be moved over to the bridge shortly. Richard Hancock stated that the Division was having trouble mobilizing the contractor for the Barbee/Herndon roundabout and that there would likely be delays with the project.

Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, provided an update on the project that would be eliminating the left lane on I-40 West near the US 15-501 interchange. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Pat Wilson discussed the Division's request to the Durham City Council for funding for the I-40 overlay. Andy Henry and Pat Wilson discussed whether studies are conducted after superstreets and roundabouts are implemented. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Pat Wilson discussed whether the I-40 project was a safety project or whether it was meant to help with congestion. Pat Wilson stated that funding requests would not be made to the Orange County Board of Commissioners because the project is mostly in Durham in response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann.

Brian Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, provided updates on two projects, pavement markings on O'Kelly Chapel Road and intersection improvements at New Hope Church Road. Brian Kluchar confirmed that the New Hope Church Road project does not extend to the Wake County line in response to a question from Cara Coppola.

Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB), stated that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) would be adopted at the upcoming NCDOT Board of Transportation meeting. She added that there was an ongoing effort to update the CTP process and that NCDOT TPB was requesting feedback from MPOs, RPOs, and other interested parties by August 11, 2017.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

16. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

There were no informational items.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.