

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

25 October 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on October 25, 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
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	Durham County
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Cooperative Extension
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Theo Letman (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Cara Coppola (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Gretchen Coperine (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Member)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Terry Bellamy (Member)	City of Durham
Nish Trivedi (Member)	Orange County
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO/City of Durham
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Rachel Gaylord-Miles	WSP
Heidi Perry	Carrboro Resident

Quorum Count: 23 of 31 Voting Members

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

Nish Trivedi introduced himself as the new TC Member from Orange County.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of September 27, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes

Geoff Green made a motion to approve the September 27, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Evan Tenenbaum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry drew attention to the preferred option for the MTP, and the recently added goals/objectives section which addresses the limitations of Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) legislation. Andy Henry also reviewed some Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) stations that were recently added to the MTP. He called attention to the executive summary, and noted that the section on performance measures has not yet been added. Andy Henry stated that the final model for the MTP would not be available until Wednesday, November 1, 2017, and that if it was not available in time, the draft preferred option model would be used. Andy Henry described efforts to update the

72 model, and one additional change that needed to be made to the MTP pertaining to the light rail
73 extension to Carrboro.

74 Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed how performance measures were developed
75 for the MTP and past procedures for evaluating the MTP. There was discussion of the exact percentage
76 of the STI non-highway funding cap. Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested that Andy Henry include a
77 comparison to the previous MTP to better show the effect of STI funding restrictions. Andy Henry and
78 Nish Trivedi discussed the best approach for addressing the equity and participation performance
79 measure and environmental justice in the MTP.

80 Andy Henry discussed how he came up with and refined cost assumptions for the light rail
81 extension to Carrboro and the commuter rail extension to Hillsborough. He also reviewed how the MTP
82 report addresses financing for these extensions. There was a discussion of whether the extensions
83 would qualify for Small Starts or New Starts funding. John Hodges-Copple stated that it is important that
84 projects on the build-side match the fiscal constraint side of the MTP. Tom Altieri stated that it was
85 important to clarify the local jurisdictions when discussing local sources of funding in the MTP. John
86 Hodges-Copple and Tom Altieri discussed the funding capacity of the local jurisdictions for the proposed
87 light and commuter rail extensions. John Hodges-Copple and Bergen Watterson discussed the level of
88 detail on cost sharing in the MTP. Andy Henry and Geoff Green discussed the proposed property tax for
89 the light and commuter rail extensions, and whether better than anticipated revenues might pay for the
90 extensions. There was discussion of the best way to phrase the suggestion of a property tax to pay for
91 the rail extensions, and other financing options for the extensions. Andy Henry reviewed funding
92 assumptions for the commuter rail transit (CRT) project. There was a discussion of the effect that STI
93 legislation would have on funding for the commuter rail projects. Andy Henry and John Hodges-Copple
94 discussed how the model would be updated in response to a question from Cara Coppola.

95 Andy Henry provided an overview of how he developed performance measures and targets for
96 the MTP. Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether a target should be set for safety
97 given that it is not possible to forecast vehicle crashes per million vehicles miles traveled. Andy Henry
98 and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed other targets that cannot be forecasted and whether more
99 measureable targets should be added. Andy Henry clarified that the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning
100 Organization (CAMPO) has the same performance measures as the DCHC MPO. Vice Chair Margaret
101 Hauth and Andy Henry discussed whether performance targets can help justify the choice of one
102 scenario over another. They also discussed whether performance measures and targets would be used
103 to evaluate the DCHC MPO's performance. Andy Henry and Vice Chair Margaret Hauth discussed
104 whether performance measures and targets that cannot be forecasted should be included in the MTP.
105 Nish Trivedi suggested that transit oriented development (TOD) performance measures be included in
106 the MTP. There was discussion of the federal regulations governing performance measures and targets.
107 Eddie Dancausse clarified that there are a minimum number of targets that are federally required, but
108 that this does not preclude the MPO from having additional targets. Felix Nwoko discussed federal
109 guidelines and tools for measuring performance measures. Andy Henry stated that he would set up a
110 conference call to further discuss performance measures and targets before the November 8, 2017,
111 MPO Board meeting. Felix Nwoko, Chair Ellen Beckmann, and Andy Henry discussed how to best address
112 the MPO Board's desire to strategically link goals, objectives, and investments in the MTP. There was
113 discussion of the best way to group performance measures and targets and the number of measures
114 that should be included in the MTP. Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the schedule for
115 releasing the preferred option for public comment.

116 Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to authorize staff to release the preferred option of
117 the MTP with the performance measures, and review and forward the rail financing options and targets
118 to the MPO Board. Nish Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Draft FY2018-27 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) needs to be adopted and sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by November 15, 2017. Aaron Cain stated that Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attribution (STBG-DA) projects and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program projects would be added later to the MTIP along with other amendments. He added that the MPO Board voted to remove two projects, the grade separation at Mangum Street and Blackwell Street and the I-40 managed lanes projects, and that these projects have been removed from the MTIP. Aaron Cain stated that additional changes would require an amendment from the MPO Board in January 2018.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed whether projects not being in the MTIP will delay project implementation. Eddie Dancausse stated that the previous FY16-25 MTIP could be modified to allow immediate work on projects until the FHWA approves the MTIP/State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Aaron Cain clarified that most of the MPO CMAQ projects are in the MTIP, but not the STIP, because they are sub-projects and therefore do not appear in the STIP. There was discussion of the MTIP/STIP reconciliation process. Aaron Cain stated that the FHWA will certify that the MTIP and STIP are the same in December 2017, after which the MTIP can be amended to reflect additional projects that cannot be included at this time. In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Aaron Cain clarified that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) would reconcile the STIP to reflect projects that the MPO will add to the MTIP. There was continued discussion of how the MTIP and STIP are reconciled. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that she wanted confirmation from Mike Stanley that local projects would not be adversely affected because they are not yet in the STIP. Aaron Cain stated that CMAQ projects that do not have STIP numbers likely will not be adversely affected by this process, but that the South Greensboro Street sidewalks project in Carrboro may be adversely affected because it has standalone

number. Aaron Cain clarified the current differences between the MTIP and the STIP, and discussed the timeline for MPO Board approval of the amendments to the MTIP. Bergen Watterson asked that Aaron Cain circulate a list of projects that would be added to the MTIP.

Cara Coppola made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing and adopt the FY2018-27 MTIP. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. MPO Board Bicycle and Pedestrian Discussion Issues

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

Dale McKeel stated that the MPO Board has expressed interest in inviting Transportation Secretary James Trogon or Deputy Secretary Julie White to an MPO Board meeting to discuss a range of bicycle and pedestrian issues. He added that the MPO Board has indicated a desire to have a session to discuss bicycle and pedestrian issues prior to inviting NCDOT staff to an MPO Board meeting. Dale McKeel drew attention to a list of issues falling into three different categories of issues, STI legislation, NCDOT policies, and design standards, that may provide the foundation for a discussion about bicycle and pedestrian issues. Dale McKeel also discussed Aaron Cain's plan to make a presentation on STI legislation before the MPO Board.

Geoff Green stated that while STI legislation is problematic, apparently tens of millions of dollars in Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds are not being spent every year because NCDOT does not program them or does not have a way of programming them. Dale McKeel promised to look into this issue. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO currently gets 50% of TAP funds, and it might be worthwhile to look into whether the MPO could receive 75% of TAP funds. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that it might be wise to focus on things that NCDOT can change, versus changes that would require legislative action. Cara Coppola asked that the fact that counties typically do not do bicycle and pedestrian projects because of lack of staff be clarified. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth commented that the points addressing maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities outside of municipalities look comprehensive, and that

they address many of the issues that come across her desk. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that something should be added to the STI process to ensure that MPOs are required to consent to projects that are submitted within their jurisdiction during the Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) process. There was discussion of whether the MPO should approve all projects submitted in its jurisdiction. There was discussion of the relationship between programming and scoring under current STI law.

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

8. Approval of Amendment #12 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the City of Durham is requesting an amendment to the FY16-25 TIP in order to allow access to funds for project EB-5833, R. Kelly Bryant Bridge North Trail, in order to begin preliminary engineering and design. Only preliminary engineering and design funds are being added to the FY16-25 TIP. Right-of-way and construction funds are included in the upcoming FY2018-27 TIP.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #12 to the FY2016-26 TIP. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. DCHC MPO Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and Self-Assessment

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO is required to develop an ADA Transition Plan as well as monitor recipients of federal funds for ADA compliance. Felix Nwoko reviewed items that are excluded from the transition plan, and described how the MPO collected data on the disabled population. Felix Nwoko stated that he is acting as the MPO ADA coordinator, but that these responsibilities will shift when the MPO hires a new member of staff. Felix Nwoko described how the MPO developed an ADA grievance procedure and evaluated public meeting spaces for ADA accessibility. He added that the MPO was working with NCDOT on assessment of programs and facilities. Felix Nwoko described steps that were taken to make sure that the MPO website is ADA compliant. He stated that the FTA has separate

ADA compliance requirements, and that recipients of federal transit funds are excluded from MPO ADA monitoring and self-assessments.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed NCDOT's role in inventorying ADA compliant facilities. Chair Ellen Beckmann described past difficulties with getting NCDOT to include ADA compliant facilities as part of its road resurfacing efforts, even on state roads. Richard Hancock stated that he believed it was NCDOT policy to upgrade deficient ramps when resurfacing state roads, but that there may be an issue with intersecting routes. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that she believed that Public Works is currently upgrading ramps but that she would follow up on the issue. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked that outdated language referencing the Triangle Transit Authority and Durham Area Transit Authority be removed from the document.

Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release of the draft DCHC MPO Transition Plan for public comment. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. High-Impact Low-Cost Project Options

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff
David Keilson, Division 5
Ed Lewis, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar, Division 8

Aaron Cain stated that 3.4 million dollars for two years, or 1.7 million dollars per fiscal year, has been set aside for high-impact low cost projects. Aaron Cain shared the deadline for submitting these projects, and stated that the Divisions were also taking feedback on the scoring criteria for the projects. Ed Lewis and Aaron Cain discussed the timeline for submitting and obligating funds for these projects. Ed Lewis stated that there would be more flexibility in the second year of the program. In response to an inquiry from Andy Henry, Ed Lewis described the types of projects that can be submitted and the scoring criteria for the projects. In response to a question from Vice Chair Margaret Hauth, Ed Lewis clarified that the projects would be highway only. Aaron Cain shared some of the feedback on scoring that he

submitted to NCDOT, primarily pertaining to funding availability and traffic volume thresholds. There was discussion of how the low traffic volume threshold is beneficial for rural Divisions. There was discussion of the scoring criteria and the types of projects that could be submitted for this funding opportunity. Aaron Cain and Ed Lewis discussed how projects should be submitted. Tina Moon and Ed Lewis discussed whether board approval would be required to submit projects. They also discussed the design components needed for submitting projects. There was continued discussion of the scoring process. Felix Nwoko and Richard Hancock discussed whether there would be an opportunity to combine projects. There was additional discussion of the design requirements for projects. Bryan Kluchar stated that Division 8 was looking at small scope projects such as shoulder widening and lane width widening. There was discussion of how the scoring system would account for a local match.

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

REPORTS:

11. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the joint DCHC MPO and CAMPO meeting would be held on November 30, 2017, and that the location for the meeting is still being determined. Felix Nwoko provided an update on the regional toll study and the US 15-501 study. In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Felix Nwoko stated that the toll study would be presented to the DCHC MPO Board at the November 30th joint meeting. Felix Nwoko and Scott Whiteman discussed the DCHC MPO's decision to step back from the CSX study. In response to a question from Andy Henry, Felix Nwoko clarified that the DCHC MPO was interested in looking at the entire rail corridor as part of the CSX study, not just grade separations.

12. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

There was no report from the TC Chair.

245 **13. NCDOT Reports**

246 The reports from Divisions 5, 7, and 8 were included in the agenda packet for review. There
247 were no questions.

248 Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, stated that the statewide freight plan was
249 adopted at the September meeting of the NCDOT Board of Transportation and is currently in the
250 process of being federally approved. Julie Bogle also provided an update on the Strategic Transportation
251 Corridors Master Plan.

252 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

253 **14. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

254 **ADJOURNMENT:**

255 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
256 adjourned at 11:23 a.m.