

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

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**23 August 2017**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 23, 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
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
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
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Cooperative Extension
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Laura Woods (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
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Matt Day (Alternate)	TJCOG
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Katherine Butler	Citizen

Quorum Count: 21 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.

**PRELIMINARIES:**

**2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

**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 July 26, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes**

Geoff Green made a motion to approve the July 26, 2017, TC meeting minutes. Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**5. Approval of Amendment #11 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

NCDOT pushed back the concurrency and effectiveness date for the upcoming FY2018-27 TIP from October 1, 2017, to January 1, 2018. The result of this delay is that projects will not be able to access FY18 Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attribution (STBGDA) or Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds during the interim period. Aaron Cain listed the projects that were affected by the delay, and explained that Amendment #11 to the FY2016-25 TIP would allow these projects to access FY18 STBGDA and FY18 CMAQ funds in early October 2017.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #11 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. SPOT P5.0 Project Recommendations**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain drew attention to the list of projects that the DCHC MPO will submit for Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) 5.0 consideration, and explained why the DCHC MPO was submitting 24 highway projects instead of the allowed 23 projects. Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO would also be submitting 23 bicycle and pedestrian projects, 21 transit projects, and 10 rail projects. Aaron Cain discussed reasons for submitting three proposed rail projects in spite of a request from the Rail Division to not submit these projects. Aaron Cain added that the scope and description of the projects on the list may be modified to allow them to score better.

Aaron Cain confirmed that the grade separation at Cornwallis Street was a committed project in response to a question from John Hodges-Copple. Aaron Cain and John Hodges-Copple discussed the possibility of submitting an improved grade separation project at Roxboro Road as both a highway and a rail project.

Chair Ellen Beckmann shed light on the SPOT subcommittee's decisions regarding the Hillsborough project on Eno Mountain Road, and Durham projects such as the roundabout at Alston Avenue and Riddle Road, the two-way conversion of Mangum Street and Roxboro Road, and the widening of the bridge under the North Carolina Railroad from Pettigrew Street to Main Street. John Hodges-Copple emphasized that scoring projects is not the same as programming projects. There was discussion of whether Roxboro Road is a state road and how that fact might affect scoring for the project.

Scott Whiteman and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the proposed tunnel project to connect the American Tobacco Trail and the Duke Belt Line Trail. There was discussion of the number of Durham

and Hillsborough projects that had not scored well using the MPO's preliminary scoring process. Aaron Cain, Chair Ellen Beckmann, and Ed Lewis discussed when the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Divisions would submit their projects, and whether the Divisions would submit bicycle and pedestrian projects that did not make the MPO's list of projects to submit. Aaron Cain and Ed Lewis discussed how the MPO could submit projects on the Divisions' behalf. Ed Lewis requested that Carrboro and Chapel Hill submit a bicycle and pedestrian project at Franklin and Merritt Mill Road in case plans for a roundabout at that location fall through. There was discussion of the best way to submit the bicycle and pedestrian project at Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road. Ed Lewis emphasized that the MPO needs to be clear about what transportation problems submitted projects are trying to solve. There was discussion of how the Divisions develop their list of projects for SPOT submittal and whether the list of projects would be available by the September DCHC MPO Board meeting.

Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that projects need to be in the MPO's TIP and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) if they are to move forward, and that it is important that the MPO has time to consider whether it is committed to projects and whether local governments are committed to providing a 20% local match.

Chair Ellen Beckmann confirmed that the Roxboro Road project would be submitted as both a rail and a highway project in response to an inquiry from John Hodges-Copple.

Laura Woods made a motion to refer the list of highway, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and rail projects to the DCHC MPO Board for approval and submission to SPOT 5.0. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -- Alternatives Analysis**

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry reviewed the schedule for developing and adopting the MTP. He also discussed the plan for gathering public input for the MTP.

116 Matt Day discussed how TJCOG came up with revenues for the constrained, moderate, and  
117 aspirational models. Matt Day discussed the assumptions that were used to create the three scenarios.  
118 Matt Day confirmed that all three models assume the Strategic Transportation Initiative (STI) framework  
119 in response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann. John Hodges-Copple pointed out that the  
120 revenues are within the STI framework, but that it is important to keep in mind the revenue side versus  
121 how revenues are spent.

122 Matt Day stated that he would focus on the aspirational scenario instead of the constrained and  
123 moderate scenarios, because the aspirational scenario seems to be preferred based on discussions at  
124 technical meetings. Matt Day discussed the funding assumptions for each scenario. Chair Ellen  
125 Beckmann and Matt Day discussed the financial model of the Durham and Orange Transit Plans, and  
126 revenue forecasts for Wake County. Matt Day reviewed the funding assumptions for projects for each  
127 decade of the MTP in the aspirational scenario, and noted that funding was calculated in 2016 dollars.  
128 John Hodges-Copple and Matt Day discussed funding for projects in the second decade of the MTP in  
129 the aspirational scenario. John Hodges-Copple pointed out that even in the aspirational scenario there is  
130 a fairly constrained set of projects through the second decade. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that  
131 although these projects are uncommitted, the model treats them as if they are committed. John  
132 Hodges-Copple pointed out that if a project is in the STIP, it is assumed that it draws money and will end  
133 up in the MTP. However, projects can be taken out of the MTP which would free up funds. Matt Day  
134 discussed how the withdrawal of the I-40 managed lanes project will affect the next STIP. Aaron Cain  
135 stated that the assumption is that the managed lanes project will be programed for 2040 in the MTP,  
136 but that the MPO did not want to program the project for 2026.

137 Andy Henry explained how Matt Day's projected revenues at the statewide, regional, and  
138 Division levels were used to make adjustments to STIP projects. Andy Henry drew attention to a  
139 comparison between the statewide projects in the 2040 MTP and the draft 2045 MTP (if it were adopted

at the time of the TC meeting). Andy Henry stated that he used the STIP estimate for the managed lane project, but cost could be reduced by \$215 million if the managed lane feasibility study estimate is used. Andy Henry confirmed that these numbers were based on the aspirational scenarios in response to an inquiry from Chair Ellen Beckmann.

Andy Henry discussed the budget for the light rail project, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and Transportation Demand Management (TDM). Andy Henry stated that additional revenues from roadways that developers will likely build and local government bond funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects have not yet been factored into the MTP. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed how STBGDA funds have been factored into the Division budget. John Hodges-Copple and Andy Henry discussed funding assumptions for projects in the third decade of the MTP. Andy Henry discussed the next steps in the MTP development process.

Geoff Green made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing on the Alternatives Analysis at their September meeting. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. Review of NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

In late June 2017, DCHC MPO staff learned that the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) is considering changes to the NCDOT Sidewalk and Pedestrian Policy. Aaron Cain stated that Dale McKeel would be asking members of the TC to form a subcommittee to review the existing Sidewalk and Pedestrian Policy and provide comments and suggestions for changes. These comments will be reviewed at the September TC meeting and provided to the MPO Board for consideration.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that while the BOT has deferred action on updating NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian policy, the MPO wants to be proactive in developing recommendations. Chair Ellen Beckmann shared where the Bicycle and Pedestrian Policies can be found on NCDOT's website and the dates when the policies were last updated. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that it would potentially

help the MPO if bicycle and pedestrian facilities could be routinely included with NCDOT's highway projects.

Bergen Watterson confirmed that NCDOT has not yet made new recommendations, and that the subcommittee would be providing recommendations on existing policies. Chair Ellen Beckmann used the Roxboro/Latta/Infinity project to show how current NCDOT policies sometimes create a disincentive for implementing the safest facilities for bicycles. Richard Hancock concurred with Chair Ellen Beckmann, and noted that there was a new Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation at NCDOT, Julie White. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that Julie White has already been invited to a MPO Board meeting.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that a subcommittee would convene to develop recommendations in time for the September TC meeting.

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

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **9. Reports from the LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

There was no report from the LPA Staff.

##### **10. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that Julie White is now Deputy Secretary of Multi-Modal Transportation at NCDOT. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that she hoped that Julie White would be attuned to the concerns of urban areas given her work on the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayor's Coalition.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that there would be a drop-in Duke Belt Line Vision Workshop on September 6 at the Durham Armory from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

##### **11. NCDOT Reports**

Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, stated that work is continuing on the Alston Avenue project, and that there was a public hearing about closings related to the East End Connector project. Richard Hancock added that the closings related to the East End Connector would occur in October 2017 and that the exact date of the closing would be determined in coming weeks. Richard Hancock also provided an update on plans to patch, repair, and resurface Rowena Avenue. Richard Hancock provided an update on the Old Chapel Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian project, and noted that Chapel Hill Councilman Ed Harrison has expressed concern about the closure of Pope Road. Richard Hancock clarified that only the Pope connection would be closed, and that Chapel Hill Road would remain open. Richard Hancock also discussed some utility issues related to the project. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Richard Hancock discussed whether the Division has been in touch with Githens Middle School. Richard Hancock provided an update on the Barbee/Herndon roundabout project and noted that the contractor has been very late mobilizing there. He also discussed concerns about how closures related to the project would affect a nearby school now that the school year has commenced.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, discussed the month-long public engagement process surrounding the upcoming STIP and the role that Metroquest Public Engagement software will play in the process. Bergen Watterson and Ed Lewis discussed some of the alternatives that have been proposed for the Merritt Mill/Franklin/Main Street project. Bergen Watterson requested that Ed Lewis present staff with the alternatives for the project before the upcoming meeting.

Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that planning and design has started on the intersection realignment at NC 751 and O'Kelly Chapel Road, and that there is a 2019 let date for the project. Bryan Kluchar confirmed that the project would not affect Durham County in response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann.

Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB), stated that the DCHC MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) has been adopted by the NCDOT BOT. She promised to send out



an email with the CTP maps and a link to the website to find them. She added that the CTP report was still being finalized and would be finished by September 2017. Julie Bogle stated maps and reports for Chatham County CTP, which was adopted in January 2017, are still being finalized. Julie Bogle also provided updates on statewide planning initiatives, primarily the Statewide Freight Plan and the Strategic Transportation Corridors Plan. She added that TPB is also developing traffic forecasting shapefiles that will be visible through ArcGIS online and that a beta version should be up and running in coming months. Chair Ellen Beckman and Julie Bogle discussed the source of the model for the new traffic forecasts. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Julie Bogle also discussed whether the CTP has been updated on the DCHC MPO website.

John Hodges-Copple inquired whether the Chatham County residents at the meeting wished to speed. Katherine Butler, a Chatham County resident, stated that she was at the meeting for informational purposes only.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

#### **12. 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 10:19 a.m.