

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

27 September 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on September 27, 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
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	Durham County Planning
Laura Woods (Alternate)	Durham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Richard Hancock (Member)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Member)	NCDOT, Division 7
Brian Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Ed Venable (Alternate)	City of Durham Public Works
Lisa Miller (Alternate)	Durham City-County Planning
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County

Quorum Count: 16 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:05 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.

Nishith Trivedi introduced himself as the new planner 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 August 23, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes

Geoff Green made a motion to approve the August 23, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Laura Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry discussed the schedule for developing, approving, and receiving comments for the MTP. Andy Henry reviewed the sources for the population and employment guide totals, and the MTP maps. Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the Durham Freeway project should be termed a modernization project. Andy Henry stated that projects were listed in alphabetical order by decade. He also discussed how the county transit plans and local bicycle and pedestrian plans were used as sources for projects in the MTP, and how the DCHC MPO's complete streets guidelines were incorporated into the MTP. Andy Henry discussed the MTP's financial plan and revenue projections based on the optimistic scenario. He also discussed how he came up with estimates for local and private funds. Andy Henry discussed how the estimates for the managed lanes projects resulted in overspending for the last decade of the MTP.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed whether the state share for the Wake-Durham commuter rail project and the Chapel Hill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project have already been accounted

67 for in the budget. Chair Ellen Beckmann noted that the limits for the managed lanes project differed in
68 the feasibility study and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and inquired whether the cost
69 of the project was modified accordingly. Andy Henry discussed how he modified the cost estimate based
70 on the limits of the managed lane project. Andy Henry reviewed the share of spending for each mode in
71 the three decades of the MTP, and drew attention to how the high cost of the Durham-Orange Light Rail
72 Transit project (D-O LRT) affected the overall balance of spending in the first two decades.

73 In responses to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Andy Henry confirmed that Strategic
74 Transportation Investments (STI) rules were factored all the way through the MTP but were relaxed in
75 the last decade. There was discussion of whether the effect of STI rules on the Strategic Prioritization
76 Office of Transportation (SPOT) scoring was factored into the final decade of the MTP. Chair Ellen
77 Beckmann stated that she wanted to be able to use the MTP to argue for certain legislative changes,
78 particularly pertaining to the 10% cap on transit projects.

79 Geoff Green pointed out that there were no capital intensive transit projects that would be
80 typically funded through STI beyond the first decade of the MTP, and that perhaps a major investment
81 study is needed to identify corridors where transit investments are needed. There was discussion of
82 whether the extension of the commuter rail to Mebane was a priority for the later decades of the MTP.
83 Andy Henry discussed how he came up with a cost estimate for the extension of the commuter rail to
84 Hillsborough.

85 There was discussion of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated
86 that she did not think the treatment of bicycle and pedestrian project was ambitious enough, and that
87 no funding should be left on the table.

88 Felix Nwoko stated that based on comments from the last MPO Board meeting the last batch of
89 major capital transit projects would be a light rail extension to Carrboro and a commuter rail extension
90 to Hillsborough. He added that these projects should be added to the MTP if there is available funding

91 so that staff can receive feedback from the public and MPO Board members on these projects. Andy
92 Henry confirmed that these projects were in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in response
93 to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann. Andy Henry and Felix Nwoko discussed how transit maps can
94 be modified to show future improvements in service. There was discussion of whether there was a cost
95 estimate for the light rail extension to Carrboro. Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the local match for the
96 extension and how a change in STI legislation might affect the project.

97 Andy Henry discussed the schedule for the next steps in the development of the MTP. John
98 Hodges-Copple discussed elements of the socioeconomic data that would not be nailed down in time for
99 the preferred option to be released at the October MPO Board meeting. There was discussion of the
100 best way to update the model while making sure the 42-day public comment period for the preferred
101 option is met. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed whether the local governments would
102 provide comments on the preferred option. Andy Henry stated that it was possible to have the model
103 updates by the October TC meeting in response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann. Andy Henry
104 proposed asking the MPO Board to authorize the release of the preferred option after further review
105 from the TC at its October meeting. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for and received clarification about the
106 updates that would be made before the MPO Board presentation. Andy Henry stated that he would look
107 into the extension of the commuter rail and light rail projects, and that he now had more information on
108 assumptions from Chatham Transit. John Hodges-Copple commented that it was important to
109 determine how the commuter rail and light rail extensions related to the Orange County Transit Plan.
110 Andy Henry stated that it would likely be necessary to state that these projects would not be completed
111 under current STI legislation.

112 Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to forward the updated preferred option to the MPO
113 Board and to authorize them to release it for public comment subject to further review by the TC. Lisa
114 Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Amendment #1 to the FY2018 UPWP proposes to obligate Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attribution (STBG-DA) funds that had been de-obligated in prior years for the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) and the Town of Chapel Hill, and de-obligate all Orange County funds. Felix Nwoko stated that the funds from Orange County would eventually be flexed to transit. Felix Nwoko added that the LPA would be using de-obligated funds to complete data collection by November.

Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #1 to the FY2018 UPWP. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Surface Transportation Block Grant -Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funding Distribution for FY2019

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that it is time for the MPO to distribute STBG-DA and TAP allocations for FY19 to kick off development of the FY2019 UPWP. A split for STBG-DA allocation was shown in the attached table for LPA, transit, and local discretionary funds. He drew attention to an attached timeline for a call for bicycle and pedestrian projects and flexing. Felix Nwoko discussed a rescission under discussion in the House of Representatives. He stated that making sure all projects are spoken for in the TIP may be helpful in the case of a rescission.

Chair Ellen Beckmann clarified that projects are only protected when funds are obligated, not when they are programmed. She also discussed how supplemental agreements could be used to increase funding for projects until a project is closed out. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that this method, which was used for the West Ellerbe Creek Trial, may be a fast way to obligate funding. Felix Nwoko stated that the LPA was also working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on this issue.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY2019 distribution of STBG-DA and TAP funds. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Request for DCHC MPO Support for Town of Carrboro NCDOT Bicycle Planning Grant Application

Tina Moon, Town of Carrboro

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the Town of Carrboro is required to provide a resolution of support from the MPO Board as part of its application for a NCDOT Bicycle Planning Grant. Aaron Cain stated that the grant would be used to update Carrboro's Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the resolution in support of the Town of Carrboro's grant application to update its Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Review of NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

In late June, DCHC MPO staff learned that the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) was considering changes to the NCDOT Sidewalk and Pedestrian Policy. A TC subcommittee reviewed the existing Sidewalk and Pedestrian Policy and provided comments and suggestions for change. A letter based on these comments has been drafted for review prior to being provided to the MPO Board for consideration. Dale McKeel highlighted some of the changes suggested by the letter. Dale McKeel stated that Deputy Secretary of Multi-Modal Transportation Julie White has asked the Bicycle and Pedestrian Division to create a committee to advise the department moving forward, and that Chair Ellen Beckmann has been selected to be part of the group.

After discussion of who the letter should be addressed to, it was decided that the letter should be addressed to Transportation Secretary James Trogon and copied to Deputy Secretary Julie White and NCDOT BOT member Nina Szlosberg-Landis.

Geoff Green made some suggestions about phrasing in the letter and pointed out that it was important that the NCDOT BOT get input from bicycle and pedestrian planners around the state, not just highway planners. Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the limitations of restricting this process to feedback from working groups.

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked that the letter be made more specific, especially when it comes to the local government cost share for pedestrian facilities. Dale McKeel described the current procedure for determining the local government cost share of pedestrian facilities. Chair Ellen Beckmann requested that additional specific changes be made pertaining to the existing bridge and bicycle lane policies. Felix Nwoko discussed recent MPO Board directives pertaining to NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy. Dale McKeel pointed out that the recent MPO discussion was perhaps more about STI legislation, and that addressing this issue may excessively broaden the scope of the letter. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that a second letter from the MPO Board Chair may be necessary to address overarching bicycle and pedestrian issues. Bill Judge asked that a few additional issues be addressed in the letter, especially street lighting.

Lisa Miller made a motion to forward the letter to the MPO Board with the modifications discussed and to ask the MPO staff to write a letter that requests that NCDOT Deputy Secretary Julie attend a meeting for a broader discussion of bicycle and pedestrian concerns. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Draft FY2018-27 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain discussed the schedule for developing the TIP. He commented on how the delayed release of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has affected development of the TIP. He also discussed issues he was having formatting the document, the database, and importing project maps from the previous year. Aaron Cain stated that he hoped to resolve missing or problematic

elements in coming weeks. Aaron Cain asked that the TC review Appendix B, or differences between the adopted STIP and the MPO's changes.

Geoff Green asked that the Triangle Transit image on the cover be replaced. Aaron Cain asked representatives of local jurisdictions to send him any pictures they want used in the TIP. Geoff Green asked that the description of the D-O LRT be made consistent with the description in the STIP. There was discussion of whether federal engineering dollars for the D-O LRT should be included in the TIP. Chair Ellen Beckmann commended Aaron Cain for using Adobe InDesign to update the TIP.

Evan Tenenbaum made a motion recommend that the MPO Board release the Draft FY2018-27 TIP for public comment. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

11. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that preproposal meeting for the US 15-501 corridor study would be held in the City Council Committee Room at Durham City Hall.

Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO has been selected to host the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) conference during the last week of April 2018. Aaron Cain stated that no specific hotel would be contracted for the conference, the conference would be held at the Durham Convention Center, and that there was a need for local sessions in the jurisdictions.

Aaron Cain requested that TC members help develop ideas for those local sessions.

12. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that October 4 is National Walk to School day and that there would be activities happening in every jurisdiction. She added that Durham has been chosen by NCDOT to host the statewide sponsored event. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated Durham's event would take place at Lakewood Elementary school.

13. NCDOT Reports

Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, provided an updated on the Alston Avenue project. He added that the Division was working with the City of Durham to install interim crossings at Eastway Elementary school. Richard Hancock stated that night work on Old Chapel Hill Road would be ending because of utility conflicts. Richard Hancock discussed closures related to the Barbee/Herndon roundabout project and the East End Connector project.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there was a delay with the reconfiguration of lanes on the I-40 project near US 15-501. He also outlined the procedure for submitting SPOT projects on the Division's behalf. Aaron Cain reviewed the number of bicycle and pedestrian projects that the Divisions 5 and 7 would be submitting for the DCHC MPO.

Brian Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that Division 8 has one project to submit, on US 15-501, in the DCHC MPO's jurisdiction, and that there were no bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Aaron Cain confirmed that he would not actually click submit for the projects that Division 7 would be submitting for the DCHC MPO.

There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

14. 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 10:26 a.m.