DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

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2	14 Februar	v 2018
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4	MINUTES OF	MEETING
5	WINGTES OF WILLTING	
6	The Durham Chanel Hill Carrhere Metropolitan	Dianning Organization Poard mot on Fohruary
7	The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on February	
	14, 2018, 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:	
8	Durnam City hall. The following people were in attenuance.	
9 10	Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair)	Town of Carrboro
10	Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
12	Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
13	Vernetta Alston (Member)	City of Durham
14	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
15	Barry Jacobs (Member)	Orange County
16	Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
17	Steve Schewel (Alternate)	City of Durham
18	Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
19	Jenn Weaver (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
20	Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
21	Michael Parker (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
22	Penny Rich (Alternate)	Orange County
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24	David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
25	Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
26	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
27	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
28	Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPD
29	Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
30	Bergen Watterson	Town of Carrboro
31	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
32	Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
33	Geoff Green	GoTriangle
34	Terry Bellamy	City of Durham
35	Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
36	Bill Judge	City of Durham
37	Evan Tenenbaum	Durham County
38	Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
39	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
40	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
41	Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
42	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
43	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
44 45	Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO
45 46	Anne Phillips	City of Durham
46	Bryan Poole	City of Durham

47 Heidi Perry Resident Tim Schwarzauer **Chapel Hill Transit** 48 Brian Litchfield **Chapel Hill Transit** 49 50 Scott Whiteman **Durham County** Natalie Murdock 51 League of Women Voters Jan Cromarti **ABP** 52 53 Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members 54 55 Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A roll call was performed. The 56 57 voting members and alternate voting members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being 58 59 circulated. 60 Pam Hemminger made a motion to give Nina Szlosberg-Landis an excused absence. Vernetta 61 Alston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. 62 **PRELIMINARIES:** 2. Ethics Reminder 63 Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of 64 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any 65 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by 66 MPO Board members. 67 68 Chair Damon Seils reminded the MPO Board to submit their 2018 ethics forms. Barry Jacobs asked for and received clarification about whether the DCHC MPO ethics form was the same as the 69 70 GoTriangle ethics form. 71 3. Adjustments to the Agenda 72 Chair Damon Seils asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Felix Nwoko drew 73 attention to a handout pertaining to President Trump's new infrastructure plan. Steve Schewel asked

for and received clarification about the MPO Board's weighted voting procedure.

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4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Directives to Staff

The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. Approval of January 10, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the January 10, 2018, meeting minutes. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

83 ACTION ITEMS:

7. Safety Performance Measures and Targets Endorsement

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO was required to set safety performance measures and targets to comply with a Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requirement. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO would be required to set performance measures and targets for five areas. He discussed the timeline for the adoption of safety targets. Felix Nwoko stated that the safety targets would need to align with other plans, and would require coordination. He also discussed the methodology that the MPO used to develop its targets, and the implications associated with not meeting the targets. Felix Nwoko discussed North Carolina's safety targets, and why the recommendation is for the MPO to adopt the state's targets instead of developing its own targets.

Chair Damon Seils confirmed that the MPO numbers were calculated based on incidents that occurred within the jurisdictional boundaries of the MPO. Felix Nwoko and Penny Rich discussed whether it was possible to know whether the crashes being discussed involved local residents or visitors. Felix Nwoko reviewed MPO crash data, and discussed common problems associated with crash data. Felix Nwoko discussed the advantages of adopting the state's targets, such as not having to calculate Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for the MPO.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Felix Nwoko discussed the tools that the MPO could use to achieve its safety targets, and whether the MPO planned to engage the community, law enforcement, and community health groups to achieve its targets. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Felix Nwoko discussed potential ways to engage the community in this process. Ellen Reckhow and Felix Nwoko discussed whether there are investigations of fatal pedestrian crashes. Chair Damon Seils clarified that the MPO does not investigate individual incidents, but that it was likely that the police investigates fatal pedestrian crashes. Pat Wilson confirmed that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) investigates every fatal crash on state system roadways. Chair Damon Seils stated that he recently attended a Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) meeting where issues related to data quality and granularity were discussed in relation to a similar agenda item. Felix Nwoko and Chair Damon Seils discussed whether it would be possible to develop MPO specific targets in the future.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the resolution endorsing NCDOT's Safety Performance

Targets. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry reviewed past steps in the development of the MTP. Andy Henry stated that the MPO has received a lot of input on the MTP from other agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Andy Henry stated that the FHWA suggested that the FAST Act compliant measures be incorporated directly into the MTP report. Andy Henry discussed how two FAST Act performance measures, state of good repair and safety, were incorporated into the MTP report.

Ellen Reckhow and Andy Henry discussed an inconsistency with the truck delay performance measure. Andy Henry discussed plans to complete all nine targets for the upcoming MPO Board meeting.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to extend the public review period for the MTP to March 2, 2018.

Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Draft FY2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully discussed recent steps in the development of the UPWP, and two minor changes that were made to the UPWP since the MPO Board last saw it. Chair Damon Seils opened the public hearing for the UPWP. There were no public comments. Chair Damon Seils closed the public hearing.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve draft FY2019 UPWP. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meg Scully stated that the MPO staff would send letters to local staff so that they could prepare the local match funds for the next fiscal year budget.

10. Transit Projects in SPOT 5.0

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain provided a PowerPoint presentation that presented an overview of the projects that were submitted in the Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) 5.0 process in September 2018. Aaron Cain stated that the vast majority of transit mobility projects submitted to SPOT 5.0 were either from the DCHC MPO or CAMPO. Aaron Cain stated that in January 2018, the DCHC MPO formally requested that CAMPO remove some of its Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects that could compete with the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DOLRT) project because of the concern that the BRT projects could harm the DOLRT in SPOT scoring. CAMPO concurred, and removed nine transit mobility projects from SPOT consideration in January 2018. Aaron Cain stated that the question then came up about what the DCHC MPO would do in support of the DOLRT project. Aaron Cain reviewed the SPOT scoring process, specifically the criteria used to evaluate transit mobility projects. Aaron Cain noted that at an estimated cost of \$2.47 billion, the DOLRT is an expensive project that is going to have a high cost per ridership.

Ellen Reckhow commented that from years of attending transit conferences she has learned that light rail ridership is usually underestimated, given that models look largely at commuter traffic, and not special events. Karen Howard and Aaron Cain discussed whether ridership projections take

population growth into account. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, Aaron Cain, and Geoff Green discussed whether listed projects have called for state funding in the adopted transit plan. Aaron Cain clarified that while the DOLRT has asked for state funding, the Chapel Hill BRT does not anticipate state funding in the Orange County Transit Plan. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs asked for and received clarification about whether the majority of projects under consideration for removal from the SPOT process were related to buses, and Aaron Cain confirmed that the projects were all transit vehicle purchases. Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed funding assumptions for vehicle purchases. Barry Jacobs asked whether a decision about projects needed to be made during the MPO Board meeting, and also requested a copy of the materials.

Aaron Cain discussed how current life span assumptions might affect scoring for the DOLRT. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain described efforts that were being made to get the SPOT office to modify their life span assumption for the DOLRT. Aaron Cain reviewed the TC subcommittee's recommendations about projects that should be removed from the SPOT process in support of the DOLRT. Aaron Cain and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed how removing certain projects and keeping others could increase the score of the DOLRT project. Ellen Reckhow reflected on the life span of the Boston light rail transit system. Aaron Cain clarified that the SPOT office likely believes that the DOLRT will have a life span that exceeds 70 years, but that they need a methodology that can be applied to all transit mobility projects in the state. There was discussion of the timeline for resolving the life span issue, and how MPO Board members should vote in light of uncertainty about the life span issue.

Aaron Cain provided an overview of the projects that could be removed from the SPOT process, and weighed the pros and cons for removing various projects. Ellen Reckhow reflected on the history of the DOLRT project. Jenn Weaver discussed the ridership and overall importance of the Hillsborough circulator and the Orange-Durham Express (ODX) bus for the Hillsborough community. There was discussion of bus route abbreviations and their respective routes. Jenn Weaver commented that while

removing the Hillsborough circulator and ODX projects was manageable, removing the Chapel Hill BRT project felt a bit harder. Aaron Cain commented that the ODX route could be submitted to SPOT 6.0 with no harm to the project. There was continued discussion of bus route names and their respective routes.

Brian Litchfield commented that the Chapel Hill Transit projects were designed to potentially make connections to existing or future regional projects, and that they are within corridors that are either being served by the Chapel Hill BRT or the DOLRT. He added that the projects were submitted to secure a local match for expansion buses. Chair Damon Seils stated that the MPO Board was being asked to make a decision about the following: the GoTriangle projects, the Hillsborough circulator, and the Chapel Hill BRT. Pam Hemminger commented that the BRT will serve the DOLRT, and that if the project does not go forward at this point, it might die. Aaron Cain stated that removing the Chapel Hill BRT would increase DOLRT scoring in three areas. Brian Litchfield stated that the Chapel Hill BRT has not received funding in previous iterations of the SPOT process, and discussed the overall status of the project. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed the impact that removing the BRT could potentially have on the DOLRT. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the MPO board was committed to making sure that the Hillsborough circulator project was realized, one way or another. There was discussion of other potential sources of funding for the Chapel Hill BRT project, the cost of the project, and the amount of non-federal dollars needed to fund the project.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed why projects that could potentially compete with the DOLRT were submitted to the SPOT process to begin with. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that it was important that projects submitted through the SPOT process were also in the adopted transit plans. She also expressed appreciation to CAMPO for removing projects that could potentially compete with the DOLRT. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs reflected on the importance of doing what is best for the region, and on projected areas of growth in North Carolina. Michael Parker concurred with Vice Chair

Wendy Jacobs on the need to think regionally, and added that the Chapel Hill BRT is an integral part of a regional system that does not only serve Chapel Hill or Orange County. He added that the Chapel Hill BRT makes the light rail project stronger, and that the Chapel Hill BRT and the DOLRT are almost inseparable projects. Michael Parker discussed the funds that have already been spent on the Chapel Hill BRT, and noted that without SPOT funding, the Chapel Hill BRT may need to be withdrawn from the Small Starts program and \$6 million may be lost. Michael Parker reiterated his support for the DOLRT, and noted that no decision is without risks. Aaron Cain offered a clarification on the non-federal funds needed for the Chapel Hill BRT.

Steve Schewel reflected on his recent conversations with staff about withdrawing projects in order to support the DOLRT, and noted that staff had warned that the Chapel Hill BRT could eventually compete with the DOLRT project. Steve Schewel reminded members that the MPO Board had previously approved all projects to be submitted to the SPOT process for scoring. Steve Schewel quantified what was at stake by not withdrawing the Chapel Hill BRT from the SPOT process. Steve Schewel reflected on the transformative nature of the DOLRT project. He stated that he would be requested weighted voting, and that he would request that all projects except for the GoTriangle Durham-Raleigh (DRX) and ODX be removed from SPOT consideration. Steve Schewel stated that while it was a possibility that both the Chapel Hill BRT and DOLRT might be funded, leaving the Chapel Hill BRT in for SPOT consideration was not worth the risk. Steve Schewel reflected on the sacrifices that CAMPO, Wake County, and the Durham County Commissioners have made in support of the DOLRT. Steve Schewel stated that he supports the Chapel Hill BRT, and thinks that the MPO Board will figure out a way to get the project done. In response to a question from Barry Jacobs, Steve Schewel explained that he recommended keeping the GoTriangle projects because they will become positive for the DOLRT if the life span issue is resolved in the MPO's favor.

Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed the consequences of the life span issue not being resolved in the MPO's favor. Aaron Cain reviewed the list of projects that the TC subcommittee recommended removing from the SPOT process. Pam Hemminger and Aaron Cain discussed what would happen if all of the projects were withdrawn from SPOT consideration and the DOLRT did not receiving funding in the SPOT process.

Barry Jacobs expressed his appreciation for the collegial and collaborative tone of the MPO Board's discussion, and reviewed how the Hillsborough circulator is currently funded. He also expressed his support for the Chapel Hill BRT project, and discussed the risks inherent to both the Chapel Hill BRT and DOLRT. Barry Jacobs requested that the MPO Board Chair write a letter to the North Carolina Secretary of Transportation about the difficult situation that the DCHC MPO was placed in because of the SPOT scoring methodology. Ellen Reckhow reiterated the risks associated with not receiving funding for the DOLRT, and discussed other potential sources of funding for the Chapel Hill BRT, primarily the foundation created by GoTriangle to raise private funds for the DOLRT.

Chair Damon Seils inquired whether the MPO Board wished to consider the three issues before them separately or together. He also reflected on his position as a representative of the Town of Carrboro, and the transit partnership between Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Chair Damon Seils discussed the history and status of the Chapel Hill BRT project, and why the project is important to Chapel Hill. He stated that the MPO Board's comments regarding finding a solution to funding for the Chapel Hill BRT was very speculative. Chair Damon Seils stated that CAMPO's decision to remove transit mobility projects that could compete with the DOLRT from the SPOT process was demonstration of a longstanding partnership between the DCHC MPO and CAMPO. Chair Damon Seils added that a weighted vote to remove DCHC MPO projects that could compete with the DOLRT would honor the DCHC MPO's collaborative relationship with CAMPO. Ellen Reckhow and Aaron Cain discussed whether

the inclusion of the GoTriangle projects could be made conditional on the resolution of the life span issue.

Jenn Weaver made a motion to remove the Hillsborough circulator from the SPOT 5.0 process. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to retain the GoTriangle projects in the SPOT process, only if there is a positive resolution of the life span issue in time to make a decision. Steve Schewel seconded the motion. Aaron Cain and Chair Damon Seils clarified that a positive resolution meant that the DOLRT project would have a life span of 73 years. Aaron Cain asked that the motion be clarified to indicate that staff would ultimately make the decision about the projects based on the resolution of the life span issue. There was discussion of the timeline for the resolution of the life span issue. Chair Damon Seils confirmed that the MPO Board's understanding of the motion was that the GoTriangle projects would be retained only if the DCHC MPO received a positive resolution of the life span issue in time to make a decision about including or not including projects in the SPOT process. There was discussion of whether funding for the ODX project would provide support for a bus or a route, and how the funds would support the route. Vernetta Alston asked that the motion be amended to specify that the GoTriangle projects would be removed if the life span condition is not met. The motion passed unanimously.

Karen Howard made a motion to accept the TC subcommittee's recommendation to remove 10 projects from the SPOT process. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Barry Jacobs asked for the list from the presentation with details about the projects that were removed following the meeting, and Aaron Cain agreed to provide him with the list. Penny Rich stated that the list would be helpful in explaining the MPO Board's vote to the Orange County Board of Commissioners. Chair Damon Seils reiterated that the TC subcommittee was unanimous in its recommendation to remove the 10 projects.

Chair Damon Seils clarified that Steve Schewel's request for weighted voting was in effect in response to an inquiry from Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs. There was discussion of whether language about finding funding to make up the gap for the Chapel Hill BRT should be added to the MPO Board's motion to remove the Chapel Hill BRT from SPOT consideration. Aaron Cain stated that MPO staff would work with others to identify possible funding solutions for the Chapel Hill BRT. Michael Parker clarified the amount of funding still needed for the Chapel Hill BRT project. Barry Jacobs reiterated that the amount of funding needed for the Chapel Hill BRT is \$12 million, not \$6 million. Karen Howard stated that removing the Chapel Hill BRT and finding alternate funding sources for the project should be two separate motions, and Chair Damon Seils agreed. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain explained the weighted voting procedure in response to a question from Pam Hemminger.

Steve Schewel made a motion to remove the Chapel Hill BRT from SPOT 5.0 scoring. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. Steve Schewel, Vernetta Alston, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Ellen Reckhow voted in favor of the motion. Pam Hemminger, Chair Damon Seils, Barry Jacobs, Karen Howard, and Jenn Weaver voted against the motion. After weighted votes were tallied, there were 21 votes in favor of the motion, and 16 votes against. The motion passed by majority of weighted votes.

Steve Schewel made a motion to request that the MPO staff work with GoTriangle and County staff to make recommendations about securing funding for the Chapel Hill BRT. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. Pam Hemminger asked that the motion be amended to include Town of Chapel Hill staff, and Jenn Weaver asked that language about the deadline for funding be included in the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Barry Jacobs reiterated his request that Chair Damon Seils write a letter to the Secretary of Transportation. Chair Damon Seils stated that he would work with staff to write a letter to the Secretary of Transportation requesting that their expressed support for the success of the DOLRT be realized.

Chair Damon Seils thanked the MPO staff, staff from the transit agencies, particularly GoTriangle and

Chapel Hill Transit, for their work in recent months on submitting projects to the SPOT process. Lydia Lavelle, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Ellen Reckhow commended Chair Damon Seils for his leadership skills, and for the work that he put in preparing for the agenda item. Ellen Reckhow reflected on the collegial and respectful manner of the MPO Board. Pam Hemminger recommended that staff formally thank CAMPO for removing projects from the SPOT process that may have competed with the DOLRT project.

11. Amendment #1 to the FY2018-2027 TIP

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO Board adopted the FY2018-2027 Transportation

Improvement Program in November 2017, and that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) reconciled the DCHC MPO TIP with the FY2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in January 2018. He added that additions and amendments to local projects that differ from the initially-adopted STIP can now be added to the TIP. Aaron Cain stated that no comments were received during the public comment period or during the public hearing.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve Amendment #1 to the FY2018-27 TIP. Ellen Rechow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Draft Local Input Points Methodology

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain discussed recent steps in the development of the Local Input Points Methodology.

He added that no public comments were received on the draft methodology, and that the draft has not changed since the MPO Board last saw it. Chair Damon Seils opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Chair Damon Seils closed the public hearing.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to adopt the Local Input Points Methodology. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

13. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair

Damon Seils, DCHC MPO Board Chair

Chair Damon Seils reminded the MPO Board about the upcoming North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) conference that will be held in Durham in April 2018. He also discussed a recent CAMPO meeting that he attended with Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs. Chair Damon Seils stated that the DCHC MPO will continue to demonstrate its partnership with CAMPO, and that the DCHC MPO would continue to work at the staff level and the policy level to be collaborators with CAMPO. He asked that staff continue to arrange twice yearly chair and vice chair meeting with CAMPO. There was discussion of the date of the next joint meeting with CAMPO. Chair Damon Seils added that while he has already thanked CAMPO Board members for removing projects from the SPOT process to help the DOLRT, he would comply with Pam Hemminger's request to write a formal letter of thanks.

14. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair

329 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann provided an update on the work of the NCDOT bicycle and pedestrian stakeholder committee.

15. Reports from LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

There was no additional report from the LPA staff.

16. NCDOT Reports:

There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 5.

Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that he wanted to set up a meeting between Chapel Hill and Carrboro in the coming weeks. There was discussion of staff present who could assist with setting up the meeting.

There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 8.

There was no additional report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division.

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343	INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
344	17. Recent News, Articles, and Updates
345	ADJOURNMENT:
346	There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
347	11:38 a.m.