

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

**14 March 2018**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on March 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:

Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Vernetta Alston (Member)	City of Durham
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Nina Szlosberg-Landis (Member)	NC Board of Transportation
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Mark Marcoplos (Alternate)	Orange County
David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
Jen Britt	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPD
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Terry Bellamy	City of Durham
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO
Julie White	NCDOT
Hanna Cockburn	NCDOT

Heidi Perry	Resident
T. Grubb	Herald-Sun
Evan Tenenbaum	Durham County
Bryan Poole	City of Durham
Anne Phillips	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham

Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members

Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The 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 circulated.

Renee Price, who was previously a member of the MPO Board, was introduced as the new MPO Board member for Orange County.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to grant Brian Lowen an excused absence. Vernetta Alston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PRELIMINARIES:**

##### **2. Ethics Reminder**

Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by MPO Board members.

Chair Damon Seils reminded the MPO Board to turn in ethics forms to the Ethics Office by April 15. It was clarified that alternates need to turn in a form, and that a separate form is needed even if MPO Board members have submitted the form as members of other boards.

##### **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Chair Damon Seils asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.

Pam Hemminger asked Chair Damon Seils if the MPO Board could acknowledge the 10 a.m. national student walkout planned in recognition of the school shooting in Parkland, FL. Chair Damon Seils stated that the MPO Board would pause at 10 a.m. to acknowledge the student walkout.

#### **4. Public Comments**

Chair Damon Seils asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak.

Heidi Perry thanked the DCHC MPO for helping to get a fence installed on the Orange Grove Road bridge over I-40. She also commented on two recent traffic fatalities on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Chapel Hill, the financial costs of road fatalities, and urged the MPO to reconsider its roadway fatality goal in the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Pam Hemminger described steps that are being taken to make sure that pedestrians and bicyclists are safer along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Ellen Reckhow stated that North Carolina is ninth in the country for vehicle registrations of people 65 and older, and fifth in the country for fatalities in this group. She stated that a recent newspaper article had some good suggestion on how to make elderly drivers safer. Chair Damon Seils stated that Andy Henry would discuss some of the issues raised by Heidi Perry in his discussion of the 2045 MTP.

#### **5. Directives to Staff**

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **6. Approval of February 14, 2018, Meeting Minutes**

There were no items on the Consent Agenda. Chair Damon Seils stated that the February 14, 2018, meeting minutes would be approved at the April MPO Board meeting.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **7. Draft North Carolina Multi-modal Strategic Plan**

Julie White, Deputy Secretary for Multi-modal Transportation, NCDOT

99 Julie White introduced Hanna Cockburn, the new Director of the North Carolina Department of  
100 Transportation (NCDOT) Bicycle and Pedestrian Division, to the MPO Board. Julie White stated that she  
101 is a member of NCDOT's multi-modal committee, and discussed the committee's efforts to develop a  
102 strategic plan. Julie White stated that she would be reviewing a very early draft of the multi-modal  
103 strategic plan, particularly the goals, projects in each mode, hurdles, and NCDOT's role in the future of  
104 multi-modalism, and giving the MPO Board an opportunity to provide feedback. Julie White stated that  
105 she wanted the goals of the strategic plan to be tangible, and that she started the process of creating  
106 the plan by thinking about how to advance a greater number of multi-modal projects through planning  
107 and construction. She also discussed plans to create a multi-modal dashboard. Julie White reflected on a  
108 talk given by CEO of Ford Motor Company, noting that he stated that the future is about mobility, not  
109 cars.

110 Julie White stated that multi-modal investments are key for attracting new jobs and economic  
111 investment to communities. She discussed recent findings by the Urban Land Institute that found that  
112 jobs are now moving towards talent, and a City Lab study that found that vibrant, dense, mixed-use  
113 areas perform better than independent office parks. She described how companies, like Amazon, and  
114 local governments in North Carolina have embraced multi-modalism as part of their planning efforts.  
115 Julie White discussed how NCDOT worked to increase multi-modal investment in Ocracoke Island, a  
116 tourism-dependent community in Hyde County, which has the lowest per capita income in the state.

117 Julie White discussed the work of a task force that was assembled to look at the economic  
118 benefit of aviation in the state. Julie White also provided examples of recent rail projects. Julie White  
119 stated that there was a record number of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Commuter Rail Transit (CRT)  
120 projects submitted to the Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) process, and the  
121 release of points for SPOT 5.0 was on track for a March 29, 2018, release date.

Julie White stated that the economic development benefits of bicycle and pedestrian investments are lost on no one, and it is probably one area that is most ripe for improvement at NCDOT. She stated that NCDOT could work on figuring out how to make bicycle and pedestrian investments more ingrained in the highway projects that it is already doing. Julie White stated that the revision of NCDOT's Complete Streets Policy is underway, and that consultants are currently reviewing the policy.

Ellen Reckhow stated that she would love the state to look into separated paths or bikeways, and that a number of large cities are constructing barrier-separated bike lanes. Julie White discussed examples of these trends in North Carolina. Ellen Reckhow stated that this treatment has been suggested for NC 98, and a paved shoulder on the roadway would make it feel more user-friendly.

Julie White stated that NCDOT cannot become more multi-modal on its own, and that there are legislative and policy constraints. She stated that NCDOT needs its partners to advance the idea of multi-modalism in a more purposeful way. Julie White stated that NCDOT would provide leadership to advance multi-modalism, and that the leadership of Transportation Secretary James Trogdon and Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard will be key to the effort. Julie White stated that NCDOT will work to improve its core business practices, such as looking at how it can better execute local agreements. She added that NCDOT is also examining how it can be a better partner in advancing multi-modalism. She discussed the needs of different types of communities, and efforts to look into how consultants and other experts can be used to support better project delivery. She stated that it is important to make sure that NCDOT's policies align with its goals, and that stronger stakeholder engagement is necessary. Julie White discussed NCDOT's recent efforts to develop a stakeholder group that is representative of MPOs, Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), cities, counties, elected officials, staff, health care advocates, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and the biking community. She stated that this group was helping with the review of the Complete Streets Policy. Julie White concluded that NCDOT needs to do a better job of capturing and telling the story of its successes. She stated that she would be

146 encouraging staff to write more white papers to this end. She encouraged the MPO Board to reach out  
147 to her if they see opportunities for improvement.

148 Chair Damon Seils commented that celebrating and promoting successes is important, and that  
149 the MPO now has a staff person dedicated to this task. Chair Damon Seils asked about the future of the  
150 Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS), and Julie White stated that Hanna Cockburn has been charged  
151 with doing a full strategic review of the bicycle and pedestrian mode. She stated that while she cannot  
152 comment on SRTS specifically, Hanna Cockburn has been tasked with supporting rural communities and  
153 getting projects on the ground.

154 Pam Hemminger thanked NCDOT for collaborating with Chapel Hill and coming up with a more  
155 bicycle and pedestrian oriented approach to the Merritt Mill/Brewer Lane intersection project. Julie  
156 White and Pam Hemminger discussed the importance of using video and pictures to communicate  
157 successes. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that making the case for economic, health, and safety  
158 benefits will help get more funding for multi-modal transportation. She inquired whether it was possible  
159 to look at the supply chains for some of the larger infrastructure projects to show how they are spurring  
160 economic development. Julie White commented that she was looking at a recent study of greenway  
161 projects that calculated the jobs created by the projects, construction, and the supply chain. Vice Chair  
162 Wendy Jacobs and Julie White discussed how North Carolina's demographics, particularly pertaining to  
163 the growth of the senior population, need to be considered when thinking about multi-modal  
164 investments. Ellen Reckhow commented on the limited funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects, and  
165 the need for engineers to think from a pedestrian's perspective. Charlie Reece commented on the  
166 importance of protected bicycle lanes, and discussed a Durham project that will eliminate two lanes of  
167 traffic in order to add bike lanes in each direction.

168 Ellen Beckmann commented on the importance of setting up financial policies that will support  
169 safer transportation options. Julie White commented that the Complete Streets Policy review will

consider these issues. Lydia Lavelle commented on the importance of showing smaller towns with sidewalks, bike lanes, and alternative infrastructure. There was discussion of whether 20% local match programs are an obstacle to multi-modal projects. Chair Damon Seils commented on how existing lanes not needed for vehicular capacity can be converted to support a modal shift. Ellen Reckhow commented that Vienna, Austria, has turned whole lanes into bike lanes and bikeways.

No further action was required by the MPO Board.

**8. Update on Coordinated Transit Efforts**

John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG  
Mo Devlin, DCHC MPO  
Geoff Green, GoTriangle  
Bergen Watterson, Chapel Hill Transit

John Hodges-Copple stated that he would present information on a number of different transit projects within the DCHC MPO, and also projects that span the DCHC MPO and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). John Hodges-Copple provided an overview of topics that would be covered in the presentation. He stated that the DCHC MPO and CAMPO have always worked well together, but in the past year have recognized the need to work more closely at the staff, policy, and Technical Committee (TC) level. John Hodges-Copple reflected on the recent joint meeting between DCHC MPO and CAMPO, and reminded the MPO Board about the upcoming joint meeting scheduled for May 31. John Hodges-Copple reflected on the recent collaboration between the MPOs, NCDOT, transit agency staff, and Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) staff. He discussed how this group was able to work with the SPOT office to come up with standardized ways to do certain things. John Hodges-Copple added that the group has also provided guidance on the appropriate way to measure the life span of a transit project. John Hodges-Copple stated that the group can suggest evidence-based methods that can be applied statewide, that feed into federal processes, and that benefit the whole state.

John Hodges-Copple drew attention to a map of planned regional transit infrastructure projects, including the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DOLRT) project, the Chapel Hill BRT project, the Wake County BRT projects, and the Wake-Durham CRT project and its planned extensions. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the map is a great one that tells the story of planned infrastructure investment in the region. John Hodges-Copple discussed the status and cost for each of the major transit projects. Nina Szlosberg-Landis and John Hodges-Copple discussed the current Trump administration infrastructure bill, and the role that public-private partnerships could play in advancing these infrastructure projects. Renee Price and Ellen Reckhow reflected on recent conversations about the role that public-private partnerships would play in funding transportation projects that took place at a National Association of Counties conference in Washington, D.C. John Hodges-Copple discussed the state, local, and federal funding needed for the Wake-Durham CRT.

Mo Devlin discussed the county Transit Plans, and the role that the staff working groups would play in matching transit needs to funding. She stated that the policies of the staff working groups are still being established. She added that the current priority of the staff working groups is the creation of a draft work plan for FY 2019, which will eventually be released to the public. Mo Devlin discussed how GoTriangle and GoDurham have used transit tax funding, primarily to create express routes, increase the frequency of service, increase Saturday service, and for bus purchases.

Geoff Green stated that the DOLRT project is in the engineering phase of the New Starts process, and the goal is to have an executed Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) by September 2019. He stated that another goal was to begin construction in 2020. He added that there was a major investment study related to the Wake-Durham CRT, and that the findings of the study will help determine which agency should sponsor the project.

Bergen Watterson discussed the status of the Chapel Hill BRT, noting that the project is in the project development stage of the Small Starts program. She stated that the project development phase



of the project will last until September 2019, and will complete 30% design of the project and a full environmental document. She provided an overview of project partners, and stated that a possible extension of the line to Durham Technical Community College was being considered. She stated that the MPO would have opportunities for input into the project with the adoption of the locally preferred alternative. She introduced Matt Cecil, the project manager for the Chapel Hill BRT.

There was discussion of Chapel Hill Transit buses purchased with Transit Plan funds. Chair Damon Seils stated that the presentation was intended to present an overview of the way that the MPOs are coordinating around transit. John Hodges-Copple asked the MPO Board to provide him with feedback on whether the presentation was helpful, and whether similar presentations should be given on a regular basis. There was discussion of the date of the upcoming joint MPO Board meeting. Nina Szlosberg-Landis stated that it was important that the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) be involved in decision making for some of these projects at a very early stage. There was discussion of NCRR's current involvement with the rail projects. There was discussion of congressional support for federal funding for transportation projects, through programs such as New Starts and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program. Pam Hemminger requested that the miles of infrastructure be added to the map so that the public could understand why some of the lines are more expensive than others.

**9. Quarterly Update on the Durham County Transit Plan, Orange County Transit Plan, and Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project**

Geoff Green, GoTriangle  
Mo Devlin, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that there would be a detailed presentation on the Transit Plans in June 2018. Mo Devlin stated that there would be a staff working group meeting after the MPO Board meeting, staff working group meetings are open to the public, and that MPO Board members were welcome to attend the meeting.

Geoff Green provided an overview of the GoTriangle Annual report, and discussed the budget for the DOLRT project. He stated that the project was approaching a 50% design milestone. He provided an overview of the consultants responsible for various aspects of the project. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs asked whether any of the firms working on the project are local, and Geoff Green promised to provide her with this information.

Geoff Green discussed the local, state, and federal funding needed for the project. He stated that a non-profit organization, GoTriangle Partners, has recently been incorporated and will solicit cash and land donations to support the project. Geoff Green stated that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is providing oversight of the budget and contingency for the project. He added that the project is on schedule, and discussed the next steps for the project. He discussed the recent acquisition of property for a rail maintenance facility in the City of Durham.

Geoff Green stated that 50% design of the project is almost complete, and stakeholders will be providing technical feedback on the project. He discussed the recent Opportunities Summit that occurred in February 2018, and other recent and upcoming public input opportunities related to the project. Ellen Reckhow and Geoff Green discussed the property acquisition for the Durham rail maintenance facility. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs asked for and received clarification about the subject of the rescheduled Chapel Hill workshop and the upcoming workshops. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that it was important to share outcomes of the workshops with those who attended the workshop. Nina Szlosberg-Landis and Chair Damon Seils discussed how the MPO was working to resolve the life span issue for the light rail project in the SPOT process. Charlie Reece asked for and received clarification about the land acquisition for the rail maintenance facility in Durham. Matthew Clark stated that 15 parcels of land with nine owners are required for the facility, and that GoTriangle successfully negotiated with three of the owners. He added that GoTriangle did have to exercise eminent domain authority with six owners, and while litigation may be required to determine compensation for those

properties, GoTriangle holds the title for the needed properties. Charlie Reece and Geoff Green discussed whether GoTriangle is currently doing any work on joint development agreements related to the light rail project. Geoff Green discussed how GoTriangle worked with stakeholders to identify potential joint development opportunities. Charlie Reece and Geoff Green discussed the timeline for the next steps for the joint development projects. Charlie Reece cautioned that there has been considerable discussion, debate, and analysis among Durham staff, the Durham City Council, and community advocates, especially the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit, regarding GoTriangle's plans for the Police Headquarters site. Matthew Clark stated that he attends meetings of the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit, and while GoTriangle is exploring opportunities at the Police Headquarters site, there are two obstacles to pursuing joint development at the site: the timeline for pursuing the FFGA and design. Ellen Reckhow and Geoff Green discussed whether there are joint development opportunities for the 300 and 500 blocks of Main Street in Durham.

No further action was required by the MPO Board.

**10. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board was being asked to adopt the 2045 MTP. Andy Henry drew attention to the attachments for the agenda item. He noted that there was a resolution from Carrboro, and that the MTP satisfies what Carrboro is asking for in its resolution. Andy Henry reviewed the changes that were made to the MTP. Andy Henry discussed how the current Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act performance measures were incorporated into the MTP, and added that any future measures will be added to the MTP once the MPO adopts them. Andy Henry discussed the public comments that were received on the MTP, especially the comments that he received pertaining to Bolin Creek in Carrboro. He drew attention to how Bolin Creek is reflected in Appendix 4 of the MTP.

Renee Price and Andy Henry discussed whether hybrid or electric cars are considered in the environment performance measure. Renee Price inquired whether equity and participation can be ensured, not just made a goal. Andy Henry discussed the difficulty of measuring equity and participation. Ellen Reckhow and Andy Henry discussed how the FAST Act targets are reflected in the MTP. Chair Damon Seils thanked Andy Henry for his work on the MTP report, and reflected on Carrboro's discussions that preceded the passing of its resolution.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to adopt the 2045 MTP by resolution, and adopt version 6 of the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) by letter and resolution. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andy Henry stated that TJCOG and John Hodges-Copple helped with writing the MTP report.

#### **11. Local Input Points Methodology**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the MPO Board approved the Local Input Points Methodology at its February 2018 meeting, and staff submitted that Methodology to the NCDOT Review Committee. The NCDOT Review Committee submitted its comments to DCHC MPO staff, and LPA staff edited the Methodology to reflect those comments. Aaron Cain added that the TC has reviewed the edited Methodology, and has unanimously recommended that the MPO Board approve the methodology.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to adopt the revised Local Input Points Methodology. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **12. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**

Damon Seils, DCHC MPO Board Chair

Chair Damon Seils introduced Mark Marcoplos as the new alternate from Orange County, and reminded the MPO Board that the upcoming joint DCHC MPO meeting would take place on May 31,

2018, at the Research Triangle Park headquarters at 9 a.m. He also reminded the MPO Board about the upcoming North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) conference which will take place in Durham in April 2018.

**13. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann stated that she is on NCDOT's Complete Streets review committee, and she would be bringing information back to the MPO Board.

**14. Reports from LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

There was no additional report from the LPA Staff.

**15. NCDOT Reports:**

Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, provided updates on lane shifts associated with the East End Connector project. He also provided an updated timeline for the Old Chapel Hill Road project. Pam Hemminger and Richard Hancock discussed whether the lighting could be improved near the roundabout work on Pope Road. Ellen Reckhow and Richard Hancock discussed the estimated completion date of the East End Connector project. Ellen Reckhow discussed congestion on NC 147, and whether Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies could be used to reduce traffic during peak hour traffic. Ellen Beckmann stated that GoTriangle currently does TDM work for downtown Durham, but that the City of Durham is hoping to make a change and do more downtown Durham outreach in the coming year.

Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that work has started on putting up a fence on the I-40 bridge on Orange Grove Road, and that it will be installed by the end of the week. He added that a task force has been formed in relation to the two pedestrian fatalities in Chapel Hill that occurred this year, and that he would be representing the Division on the task force. Pat Wilson stated that an agreement has been reached on the Franklin/Merritt Mill intersection, and that he wanted Carrboro and Chapel

Hill to know that the Division is currently incorporating comments into the design for the project. Chair Damon Seils thanked NCDOT for their partnership on the Franklin/Merritt Mill project. In response to an inquiry from Pam Hemminger, Pat Wilson stated that the Bennett Road project would be let for construction in June 2018 along with the Greensboro/Estes project in Carrboro.

Jen Britt, NCDOT Division 8, stated that the O’Kelly Chapel Road/NC 751 intersection upgrade and realignment is in the right-of-way phase, and the project was started in January of 2018. She added that there would be some resurfacing coming up in Chatham County. Karen Howard asked for and received clarification about the resurfacing in Chatham County.

There was no update from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**16. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

There were no informational items.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

11:23 a.m.