

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

May 23, 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on May 23, 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:

Ellen Beckmann (Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (Vice Chair)	Hillsborough Planning
Kayla Seibel (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation/GoTriangle
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Zach Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Nishith Trivedi (Member)	Orange County Planning
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT, TPD
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Ellis Cayton (Alternate)	RDUAA
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	City of Durham Transportation
Rachel Flemming	MBP
Rachel Star	RDUAA

Quorum Count: 22 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.

Chance Mullis, the new Transportation Planner from Chatham County, was introduced.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Aaron Cain introduced the Air Quality Conformity item as the new Action Item #9 to the TC Agenda.

3. Public Comments

There were no members of the public signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of April 25, 2018 TC Meeting Minutes

Ed Lewis stated that on line 74 of the April 25, 2018, TC Meeting Minutes, the sentence should reflect that the Statewide tier cascades to the Regional tier. Geoff Green made a motion to approve the April 25, 2018, minutes as amended. Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. FY2018 Q3 Durham and Orange Transit Tax Quarterly Report
Mo Devlin, LPA Staff

Mo Devlin stated that GoTriangle prepared a memorandum describing the financial activity of the Durham-Orange Tax District and the Special Tax District through the third quarter of FY2018. Mo Devlin stated that the expenditures are going to improvements in service. Mo Devlin discussed the funding for transit in Durham County and Orange County and listed the transit services for both

counties. Mo Devlin discussed the number of busses that have been or will be received by Chapel Hill Transit, Orange Public Transportation (OPT), GoTriangle, and GoDurham. Mo Devlin referred the TC Board to the attached memorandum for further detailed analysis.

Andy Henry asked about the scale of these numbers relative to previous years, and about efficiency of current routes. Mo Devlin responded that average passenger size would be found in the Work Plan and referenced GoTriangle for further information regarding average passenger size. Mo Devlin discussed that the Quarterly Report shows how funding is supporting mobility within the region. John Hodges-Copple cautioned about using average trips per hour as a metric for average load.

Tina Moon stated that she would like to see graphic information comparing funding and expenditures before and after 2017 in order to better demonstrate the recent increases in service. Mo Devlin added that through March 31, 2018, there has been increased service and bus acquisition, but no expenditures for bus stops. John Hodges-Copple stated that funding and expenditures can be represented, but outcomes cannot yet be measured.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Mo Devlin discussed that a modified presentation based on the received comments will be given to the MPO Board.

6. Quarterly Update on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project
Geoff Green, GoTriangle

Geoff Green stated that GoTriangle is presenting its quarterly report on the status of the Durham-Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) Project as contemplated in the Transit Plans and the Interlocal Agreement. He added that he will be presenting the quarterly update to the MPO Board, Durham County, Orange County, and the GoTriangle Board. Geoff Green stated that the project would still be receiving over \$1B in federal funding. Geoff Green added that GoTriangle is still in the process of receiving critical commitments from various regional entities.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Geoff Green discussed the changing contingency funding for the D-O LRT project. John Hodges-Copple and Geoff Green discussed the joint development funding.

Evan Tenenbaum and Geoff Green discussed the allocation of funding used to move D-O LRT stations. Geoff Green discussed the challenges at the proposed Erwin Road Station near the Duke Medical Center, including a power source utility issue, which may result in changes in alignment. Bergen Watterson and Geoff Green discussed the increased cost of the Erwin Road Station realignment, but Geoff Green stated that the change would also mitigate the cost of moving the utilities and lessen the cost to widen Erwin Road. Geoff Green added that GoTriangle is working on a risk management workshop with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Geoff Green stated that GoTriangle is working with Duke Medical Center on the Erwin Road Station issue. Geoff Green added that GoTriangle is performing a supplemental assessment of all the station updates that will be released to the public in mid to late summer.

Geoff Green stated that the D-O LRT project would have a beneficial economic impact throughout North Carolina. Geoff Green also stated that the 50% design review is completed for the project, except the Erwin Road section, and the 50% cost estimates will be finalized by the end of summer 2018.

There was discussion about the congruency of the infographic concerning funding sources. Geoff Green stated that the message of the two graphs was meant to demonstrate how funding has changed from the beginning of the D-O LRT project.

Pierre Osei-Owusu and Geoff Green discussed that headquarters for the rumored Apple building would not significantly impact the project. John Hodges-Copple asked about the downtown Durham crossing locations for the D-O LRT. Geoff Green stated that the crossing locations may change, and critical agreements are needed for downtown Durham by the end of 2018. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated the MPO Board would be interested in more information about how the D-O LRT would impact infrastructure and cost in downtown Durham.

7. Durham and Orange FY2019 Annual Transit Plan Work Plan
Mo Devlin, LPA Staff

Mo Devlin stated that the Durham and Orange FY2019 Annual Transit Plan Work Plan was adopted late the previous night, and she will send a link to the TC Board as soon as possible. Mo Devlin added that she will present the Work Plan to the Orange and Durham County Boards, and they will be part of the public comments. Mo Devlin further added that following the comment period, the Work Plan is finalized and incorporated into the budget for GoTriangle. Mo Devlin stated that the difference between the 2018 and 2019 Work Plan is that the latter incorporates more mapping into the document, which visually demonstrates where the services would be provided. Mo Devlin stated that the maps are separated by county because Orange and Durham Counties each have their own Transit Plan. Mo Devlin further stated that the Work Plans were approved separately and were released for public comment separately as well. Mo Devlin stated that there are three main levels of the transit plan; transit service, vehicle purchase, and capital purchase.

John Hodges-Copple and Mo Devlin discussed who provides funding for Briar Creek transit service. Chair Ellen Beckman stated that she would like the map to be able to show only the transit lines. Mo Devlin confirmed that the Work Plan includes all Strategic Transportation Improvement Planning projects.

There was discussion about the structure of approving the Work Plan. The MPO Board along with MPO staff may provide comment, but the GoTriangle Board adopts the plan. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the action is for the TC members to provide comments to the MPO staff by June 4, 2018.

Felix Nwoko asked about the authorization for the Work Plan's release. Aaron Cain responded that the staff working group is authorized to release the document, and that there is a 21-day public comment period.

8. Allocation of Local Input Points for Regional Impact Projects

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the TC subcommittee made changes to the Local Input Point Allocation for Regional Impact Projects from the initial list that was published for public review. Aaron Cain stated the NC 55 project in Durham could be decreased from 100 to 92 points, but would still reach the

minimum score for funding. Andy Henry stated that there is risk in not allocating the full 100 points for that project. Andy Henry added that the points from the rail project on Neal Road could be redistributed because that project would be unlikely to receive funding.

Aaron Cain stated that after discussions with Division 8 neither DCHC nor Division 8 will allocate points to the NC 751 widening project in Chatham County. Aaron Cain added that for the US 15-501 Synchronized Street Project, the DCHC MPO would allocate 47 points, Triangle Area Rural Transportation Planning Organization (TARPO) will allocate 53 points, and Division 8 will tentatively allocate 100 points.

Aaron Cain stated the GoTriangle Orange-Durham Express (ODX) bus route service expansion for FY23 project would be increased to 90 points. Aaron Cain added that Burlington-Graham MPO declined to put points on this project. Aaron Cain stated that 34 points remain on the Commuter Rail project from Durham to Garner. The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) has not yet allocated points for that project.

Aaron Cain stated that 37 points would be allocated to the Neal Road Grade Separation project in Durham due to no longer allocating points to NC 751. Ed Lewis asked if points from the Neal Road project would be moved to whichever commuter rail project would be chosen by CAMPO. Aaron Cain responded that the Neal Road project would most likely have its points moved to other projects as necessary.

Aaron Cain stated that Divisions 5, 7, and 8 are not required to finalize their initial list until May 31. Aaron Cain added that he is coordinating efforts with each Division. David Keilson and Aaron Cain discussed the possibility of funding projects that cascaded to the Regional tier.

Nishith Trivedi made a motion for the TC to recommend that the MPO Board approve the point allocation with amendments and with authorization for the subcommittee to make adjustments. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Air Quality Conformity

John Hodges-Copple, Triangle J Council of Governments

John Hodges-Copple stated that the Air Quality Conformity must be added to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and that future amendment to these documents must also go through Air Quality Conformity. John Hodges-Copple stated that after an interagency consultation meeting is conducted, a Conformity Determination Report would be drafted to demonstrate that the MTP and TIP meet emissions requirements. John Hodges-Copple further added that the MPO Board would vote to adopt the report and then the federal government would approve the document.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board authorize the release of the Draft Conformity Determination Report for public comment when the report is ready. Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #1

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry stated that The TC requested that the DCHC MPO and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) amend the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to change the proposed future configuration of the portion of Farrington Road between Southwest Durham Drive and the Falconbridge Road Extension from a four-lane divided to a two-lane cross-section. Andy Henry added that when he originally released the amendment it was meant for a two-lane roadway, but currently LPA staff recommends that it be a two lane divided roadway. Andy Henry further added that there would be a 42-day public involvement period. Andy Henry discussed the forecasted volume on nearby roadways. Andy Henry stated that he previously discussed the topic with Julie Bogle from NCDOT Planning and members of Division 5. Vice-Chair Margaret Hauth and Andy Henry discussed the benefits of making Farrington Road into a two-lane divided roadway. Andy Henry discussed how the Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility (ROMF) would not be significantly impacted by the change.

Chair Ellen Beckman and Andy Henry discussed the appearance and accuracy of the map for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for the future Leigh Village area. Andy Henry stated that he will discuss the two-lane divided roadway at the June MPO Board meeting, and it would not be necessary for the TC to vote at this time. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that there will not be a motion until the TC Board meets in July.

11. FY19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that Amendment #1 of the FY2019 UPWP proposes to allocate Surface Transportation Block Grant-Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) funds among various task codes for the LPA. Meg Scully added that the MPO Board approved the FY19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in February 2018, but changes to the UPWP budget require an amendment approved by the MPO Board.

Meg Scully stated that the UPWP identifies MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds. Chair Ellen Beckman, Meg Scully, and Felix Nwoko discussed from where the funding is coming and where the funding is being allocated. Nish Trivedi and Felix Nwoko discussed the role of Environmental Justice (EJ) work as it pertains to the UPWP. Chair Ellen Beckman and Felix Nwoko further discussed the TC's role in EJ.

Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY19 UPWP Amendment #1. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. FFY18 Section 5307/5340 FULL Apportionment Split Letter

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that Section 5307/5340 funds are allocated to urbanized areas for transit capital and operating assistance, and for transportation-related planning. Meg Scully stated that DCHC MPO full apportionment for FY18 for each program was released by the FTA and the LPA staff, in consultation with the four fixed-route transit operators and MPO policy, developed a recommended distribution of this funding. Meg Scully added that a 'split letter' to FTA regarding the allocation of these funds among transit

operators must be approved by the MPO Board to authorize the transit operators to seek applications for funding.

Pierre Osei-Owusu made the motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the distribution and endorse the FY18 FULL apportionment split letter. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. FFY17 and FFY18 Section 5339 Full Apportionment Split Letter

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that the Section 5339 Buses and Bus Facilities program makes Federal resources available to states and designated recipients to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities. Meg Scully added that the DCHC MPO is the designated recipient for the Durham Urbanized Area (UZA). Meg Scully stated FTA allocates the funding to the UZAs based upon population, vehicle revenue miles, and passenger miles. Meg Scully added that the split letter, as developed by LPA staff in conjunction with fixed-route operators and according to MPO policy, defines the intended allocation for FY17 and FY18.

Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY17 and FY18 Section 5339 distribution and endorse the full apportionment split letter. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant - FY17 and FY18 Call for Projects

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities provides funds to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. Meg Scully added that the DCHC MPO is the designated recipient of these funds for the Durham UZA and distributes the funds to eligible sub-recipients through a competitive selection process. Meg Scully stated that a Call for Projects is conducted every other year. Meg Scully stated that approximately \$500,000 was apportioned

to the Durham UZA for FY2017 and FY2018, and will be available for the 2018 Call for Projects. Meg Scully identified the four previous recipients of the grant funding.

Tina Moon, Zach Hallock, and Meg Scully discussed guidance and consideration for eligible projects and programs as mentioned in the application packet. Meg Scully continued that any projects under the grant must be derived from a locally approved coordinated plan. Meg Scully shared the schedule for the call for projects. This item was for informational purposes. No action was taken.

REPORTS:

15. Reports from the LPA Staff

Dale McKeel, DCHC MPO

Dale McKeel stated that the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Funding Committee is reviewing applications for the next fiscal year. Dale McKeel listed the current programs that are funded, and added that there are two new applicants; the City of Durham and North Carolina Central University. Dale McKeel added that during the next Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding Review, the TC may want to consider making adjustments to the funding for TDM. Chair Ellen Beckman, Felix Nwoko, and Dale McKeel discussed the TDM Oversight Committee and the applicant process. Chair Ellen Beckman, Felix Nwoko, and Dale McKeel discussed funding requests and the possibility of increasing funding.

Dale McKeel stated that NCDOT released a report last week on their grant initiative program, which has historically been used for comparison by the municipalities within the MPO.

16. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that she attending the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Stakeholders Committee where the policies under evaluation were discussed. Chair Ellen Beckman and Felix Nwoko discussed the successful North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (NCAMPO) conference in April 2018.

274 **17. NCDOT Reports**

275 Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, noted the upcoming meeting for local points for the current
276 Prioritization Process in Division 5 on June 19 from 4-6pm.

277 Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, noted that there will be an upcoming public meeting for local points
278 for the current prioritization process in Division 7 on June 11 at the Division Office.

279 Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, noted that there will be an upcoming public meeting for local
280 points for the current prioritization process in Division 8 on June 7 in Aberdeen, NC.

281 There was no report from Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division.

282 **ADJOURNMENT:**

283 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
284 adjourned at 10:56 a.m.