

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

August 22, 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 22, 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
Kayla Seibel (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Terry Bellamy (Member)	City of Durham
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Zach Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Nishith Trivedi (Member)	Orange County Planning
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
Kurt Stolka (Member)	University of North Carolina
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Bill Judge (Alternate)	City of Durham Transportation
Bryan Poole (Alternate)	City of Durham Transportation
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Durmus Cesur	DCHC MPO
Tamara Njegaran	NCDOT Division 7
Shaundrelle Todd	City of Durham/GoDurham
Cy Stober	City of Mebane
Brian Byfield	RKA

Quorum Count: 19 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.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Public Comments

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of July 25, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any comments for the July 25, 2018, meeting minutes.

Nishith Trivedi made a motion to approve the July 25, 2018, meeting minutes. Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. NC 98 Corridor Study

Andy Henry, MPO Staff

Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released the draft report of the NC 98 Corridor Study for a 30-day public comment period and will conduct a public hearing at their September meeting. Andy Henry continued that MPO Board members were concerned that the public involvement period was not sufficient. Andy Henry added that staff recommended that the TC extend the final date for the comment period from September 6 to September 19, and the MPO Board subsequently approve the final NC 98 Corridor Study report at their October meeting. Andy Henry also stated that the consultant and staff will

also present the NC 98 Corridor Study to the Durham City Council and the Durham Board of County Commissioners on August 23 and September 4, respectively, to receive local government comments.

Andy Henry stated that he received a public comment regarding the five foot bike lane on NC 98 from Junction Road to Sherron Road and to add a multiuse path instead of bike lanes. Andy Henry recommended adding the multiuse path to the final NC 98 Corridor Study as an option in addition to five foot bike lanes. Andy Henry and Bill Judge discussed that both Durham City and Durham County funding would be required for the multiuse path. Evan Tenenbaum requested that Andy Henry send him an email about the proposed changes.

The TC Board provided comments on the NC 98 Corridor Study report, and extended the public comment period to September 19 and final MPO Board approval to the October meeting.

6. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #1

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released an amendment to 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 stated that he, along with MPO Board member Ellen Reckhow, met with a member of the public who advocated Farrington Road maintain its design in the CTP as a four-lane divided roadway. Andy Henry stated that the staff recommendation is the two-lane divided cross section as outlined in Amendment #1 because the two-lane divided roadways will provide adequate vehicle capacity and the two-lane sections are more appropriate for the adjacent neighborhoods. Andy Henry also added the Regional Operations Maintenance Facility (ROMF) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) also plans to use some of the area that would be part of the four-lane 110 feet of right-of-way for screening purposes. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed a possible redesign of interchanges with NC 54 depending upon traffic pattern changes.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve amendment #1 to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -- Amendment #1

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry stated that the TC recommended, in May 2018, that the MPO Board authorize the release of the draft Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (CDR) for public comment upon completion. Andy Henry continued that federal and state oversight agencies reviewed the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to ensure that projects are consistent among the plans, and that the MTP and the STIP are properly represented in the travel demand and emissions models. Andy Henry stated that upon review of the CDR, some inconsistencies were discovered among the data between the STIP and the MTP. Andy Henry highlighted that the changes were mainly administrative.

Andy Henry stated that the public comment period would end on October 16, 2018, and the MPO Board would then conduct a public hearing at their October meeting, which would lead to the MPO Board adopting the proposed amendment at their November meeting. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if the Durham Freeway project could be extended so long as it is included in the TIP. Andy Henry and Richard Hancock stated that they could move the end point to Chapel Hill Boulevard. Chair Ellen Beckmann agreed for the Durham Freeway project endpoint to be moved to Chapel Hill Boulevard. There was further discussion about the U-5934 extended from East End Connector to I-40 and the feasibility of adding lanes to I-40.

Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release Amendment #1 for a minimum 30-day public comment period. Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Allocation of Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO Board approved the release of the Initial Allocation of Local Input Points for Division Projects for SPOT 5. Aaron Cain stated that there will be a public hearing at the next MPO Board meeting. Aaron Cain stated that a TC subcommittee meeting will occur following the TC meeting to discuss local input points for Division projects. Aaron Cain mentioned that LPA staff requests that the TC authorize the subcommittee to release its findings to the MPO Board for review.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed that a vote from the TC is not necessary to authorize the subcommittee to convene, and the outcomes will be shared with the MPO Board.

9. FY19 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Schedule and Grant Reporting Due Dates

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that the DCHC MPO is required by federal regulations to prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. Meg Scully outlined the period of performance and submitted the due dates for amendments to the UPWP.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the TC received the amendment schedule for the FY19 UPWP and the grant reporting due dates for FY19.

10. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that, on behalf of GoDurham, the Lead Planning Agency is requesting the transfer of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for use on transit projects. Meg Scully added that this resolution supports the transfer for the DCHC urban area. Pierre Osei-Owusu stated that GoDurham is attempting to expedite the process so the flex is completed in time to apply for additional Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed the rescission in FY2019 and the possibility of funding other projects that use CMAQ monies. Pierre Osei-Owusu stated that GoDurham is applying for additional

CMAQ funding through the state and, if received, GoDurham would be able to purchase two or three buses. Terry Bellamy added that State funding has not yet been guaranteed, and other projects may instead use the CMAQ funding. Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that electric buses score highly for air quality benefits and therefore would be an appropriate project.

Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve and sign the resolution to transfer funds. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant - FFY17 and FFY18 Program of Projects
Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program provides funds to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. Meg Scully continued that the DCHC MPO is the Designated Recipient of the funds for the Durham Urbanized Area (UZA) and distributes the funds to eligible sub-recipients through a competitive selection process every other year. Meg Scully added that a Call for Projects was conducted for \$492,598 in federal funds, which was the total funding apportioned to the Durham UZA for FFY2017 and FFY2018. Meg Scully stated that once the Program of Projects (PoP) is approved at the next MPO Board meeting, the LPA staff will begin the grant application process. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were other applications selected besides those from Chapel Hill Transit EZ Rider Shuttle, GoDurham, Durham County Access and the Orange County Mobility Management Project. Meg Scully responded that the LPA office only received those applications, but more money was requested by those agencies than was available.

Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the proposed Program of Projects. Pierre Osei-Owusu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Amendment #5 to the FY2018-2027 TIP
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that amendment #5 to the FY2018-2027 TIP adds to various projects funding from the 5310 program in FY19.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend approval of Amendment #5 to the FY2018-2027 TIP. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Triangle Regional Freight Plan

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry stated that in 2015, the DCHC MPO, Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) partnered to complete a freight plan for the Triangle Region. Andy Henry added that WSP was the main consultant and they had five sub consultants. Andy Henry stated that the Freight Plan would be considered a long-range transportation plan, which would be the first multimodal Freight Plan for the Triangle region. Andy Henry added that it would identify policies and invest in the future. Andy Henry also mentioned that stakeholder involvement was important in creating the plan. Andy Henry stated that the process included investigating the current freight situation, researching current trends, and forecasting future demand capacity. Andy Henry added that the Triangle has freight intensive industries including retail and manufacturing, and 20% of the value of freight in North Carolina travels through the Triangle.

Andy Henry stated that the freight industry wants to reduce congestion and have the ability to expand the number of their current logistic facilities. Andy Henry stated that, in addition, the freight industry would like to improve operations by eliminating tight turns, low bridges, and access management. Andy Henry stated that the freight industry had 24 project recommendations, which equaled \$2.2B in cost for the DCHC MPO. Andy Henry added that the majority of the projects are already in either the MTP or the CTP. Andy Henry added that, if the new projects that were not in either the MTP or CTP, they tended to be smaller projects.

Andy Henry and Dale McKeel discussed that the rail projects tend to be related to grade separation or safer and fewer crossings. Andy Henry also noted that the freight industry recommended

that design standards be more accessible for trucks. Andy Henry stated that the schedule is for the MPO Board to release the Freight Plan for the public comment period at their meeting on September 12, 2018, and then the MPO Board conduct a public hearing at their meeting on October 10, 2018. Andy Henry highlighted that the largest areas of interest in the report are in the Executive Summary and Recommendations. Dale McKeal asked about the absence of the port city of Morehead in the report. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked about how the turning radius would affect the project to widen Garrett Road. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed the importance of a wide turning radius for intersections that are on important freight corridors while in other areas regarding the sensitivity of smaller neighborhoods.

Geoff Green made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the draft Triangle Regional Freight Plan for public comment. Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Update of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CTP)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff
Robert Jahn, LPA Intern

Meg Scully stated that DCHC MPO is the Designated Recipient for federal funding through the Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, and receives under \$250,000 per year to be distributed among eligible sub-recipients. Meg Scully continued that Federal transit law requires that projects funded through this program be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan (CTP) that must be updated every five years. Meg Scully added that the current CTP for the DCHC MPO region was approved by the MPO Board in January, 2014, and currently LPA staff members, including Robert Jahn, are in the process of preparing an updated plan. Meg Scully explained that the development of a CTP must involve seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of transportation and human services providers, and other members of the public. Meg Scully highlighted that CTP elements include: an assessment of available

221 services; an assessment of transportation needs; strategies or projects to address the gaps in service;
222 and priorities for implementation based on resources available.

223 Meg Scully stated that two workshops will be held in the MPO region in September 2018,
224 followed by development of the final plan and approval by the MPO Board. Pierre Osei-Owusu
225 suggested that future plans, as well as current services, should be included in the final report.

226 **REPORTS:**

227 **15. Reports from the LPA Staff**

228 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

229 There was no report from LPA Staff.

230 **16. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

231 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

232 There was no report from Chair Ellen Beckmann.

233 **17. NCDOT Reports**

234 The report was presented with no comments from NCDOT Division 5.

235 The report was presented with no comments from NCDOT Division 7.

236 The report was presented with no comments from NCDOT Division 8.

237 There was no report from the Transportation Planning Division.

238 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

239 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

240 **18. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

241 There were no informational items.

242 **ADJOURNMENT:**

243 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
244 adjourned at 10:01am.