

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

**14 November 2018**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on November 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
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Vernetta Alston (Member)	City of Durham
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Jenn Weaver (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Michael Parker (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Mark Marcoplos (Alternate)	Orange County
David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPD
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
Evan Tenenbaum	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham Transportation / TC Chair
Eddie Dancausse	FHWA
Heidi Perry	Resident
Leta Huntsinger	WSP
Julian Ali	Durham County Access
Linda Thomas Wallace	Durham County Access
Brenda Taylor	Durham County Access

Quorum Count: 8 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.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to excuse Nina Szlosberg-Landis and Karen Howard from attendance of the MPO Board Meeting. Charlie Reece 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 the MPO Board members.

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

Aaron Cain requested adding the N.C. Moves 2050 Plan as the new Item 19 to the Agenda, and the following items would be renumbered. Chair Seils agreed to the change.

##### **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. October 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

##### **7. October 31, 2018 Joint DCHC MPO-CAMPO Board Meeting Minutes**

71 **8. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA**

72 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

73 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that her name was misspelled on pages three and five of the  
74 Joint DCHC MPO-Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Board Meeting Minutes.

75 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections to the Joint  
76 DCHC MPO-CAMPO Meeting Minutes. Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed  
77 unanimously.

78 **ACTION ITEMS:**

79 **9. Discussion of Items from Joint DCHC-CAMPO Board Meeting**

80 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

81 **John Hodges-Copple, TJCogg**

82  
83 Aaron Cain stated that all the presentations are presently accessible via the Granicus website.

84 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that it is important to share the Regional Policy Priorities with various  
85 legislative boards. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs added that MPO Board members are encouraged to provide  
86 input to Aaron Cain and Chris Lukasina from CAMPO. Aaron Cain requested that the Board Members  
87 review the format of the template and provide comments. There was discussion that the language used  
88 in the Regional Policy Priorities document was too erudite and requests were made that it be more  
89 commonly accessible. John Hodges-Copple discussed the many different audiences that this document  
90 must reach.

91 There was discussion about the MPO Board reviewing one or two items from the Regional Policy  
92 Priorities document at the next DCHC MPO Board meeting on December 12. There was further  
93 discussion about completing the document before MPO Board members meeting with legislative  
94 delegations in January 2019. Michael Parker suggested sending comments before the next MPO Board  
95 meeting, and John-Hodges Copple stated that he will send out an informational item relating to the  
96 Legislative Goals document with comments from MPO Board members.

There was discussion about April 30, 2019, as the proposed date for the next Joint MPO Board Meeting. Vernetta Alston and Aaron Cain discussed that the feedback sheets from the Joint Meeting have been compiled by CAMPO, and the information will be presented to MPO Board members at the next DCHC MPO Board Meeting on December 12.

There was no further action required for this item.

#### **10. NC 54 West Corridor Study**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that the project team will review all comments and will provide a final version of the NC 54 West Corridor study for the MPO Board's consideration at its meeting on December 12. Chair Damon Seils opened the public hearing. Heidi Perry, resident, stated that the study's first priority ought to focus on safety. Heidi Perry also highlighted her concerns about road widening, including: access to a multiuse path, lack of signalization improvements, and the role of climate change relating to automobile use. Aaron Cain responded that there are scheduled operational improvements for 2022. Chair Damon Seils closed the public meeting.

Chair Damon Seils stated that in 2015, he and Lydia Lavelle wrote a memo before the study started, which highlighted their recommendations for how the study would be conducted; chiefly among the recommendations was the question of origin and destination, but this topic was not addressed by the study. Renee Price requested to have provided more information for the destination to University of North Carolina (UNC) Hospital. Renee Price stated that more traffic into UNC Hospital would mean more parking structures and circulators within Chapel Hill. Renee Price also would like to see more incentives mentioned for bicyclists and pedestrians. Pam Hemminger and Aaron Cain discussed the role of UNC and UNC Healthcare in the study. Aaron Cain also noted that the Burlington Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO) is very supportive of lane widening.

Mark Marcoplos stated that a gravel Park and Ride lot across from unused UNC facilities along NC 54 coupled with increased transit services might incentivize people to use transit. Mark Marcoplos also noted that this would be an effective strategy to decrease traffic on game days. Aaron Cain responded that transit agencies must be supportive of service in this area for that plan to be successful. Aaron Cain stated that in previous years, transit agencies stated that demand on NC 54 did not justify adding service and underscored that transit in rural areas is a complex undertaking.

Michael Parker stated that the DCHC MPO Board should concern itself with planning for the future, and not just for the present, which led into a discussion about the core values of the DCHC MPO. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobson noted the \$1M Bloomberg Challenge Grant that the City of Durham received is to change travel behavior and choices of residents.

Chair Damon Seils requested more information from this study as well as time for boards from Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County to review and provide feedback. There was no further action required.

**11. US 15-501 Corridor Study**  
**Leta Huntsinger, WSP**  
**Mike Bruff, LPA Staff**

Leta Huntsinger stated that the DCHC MPO and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are conducting a multimodal transportation study of the US 15-501 corridor from Ephesus Church Road/Fordham Boulevard, in Chapel Hill to University Drive, in Durham. Leta Huntsinger stated that the study will develop an updated multimodal transportation master plan for the corridor that integrates the latest land-use and multimodal transportation vision for the corridor. Leta Huntsinger added that the vision and goals were central to the study, and the public engagement aspect was also critical. Michael Parker and Leta Huntsinger discussed that the corridor is mainly retail that is mostly only accessible by automobiles.

Leta Huntsinger stated that the 15-501 corridor was an important gateway that consisted both of local and regional travel demand. Leta Huntsinger added that with the addition of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT), the area will become a regional destination. Leta Huntsinger stated that there are gaps in service between Durham County and Orange County, but adequate transit exists in both counties separately.

Leta Huntsinger stated that the study began with the visioning process, which consisted of stakeholders and local government officials riding a bus throughout the 15-501 corridor that made stops along the route and allowed people to have discussions. Leta Huntsinger also stated that there were multiple public workshops that allowed for residents to provide comments in person. Leta Huntsinger also mentioned that there was an application on the 15-501 study website where the public could provide comments on the corridor. Leta Huntsinger stated that there were three main comment topics: connectivity; multimodal; and mobility. Michael Parker stated that land use has a significant impact on mobility, and land use ought to encourage multimodal and public transportation. Chair Damon Seils, expressed concern over the language used in the vision statement, specifically “supporting and complementing” the light rail project.

Leta Huntsinger stated that there was a course correction by staff on the 15-501 project due to an overemphasis on the highway mode of transportation, therefore, the design plan options are subsequently more conceptual, and a rigorous engineering analysis has not yet been performed. Leta Huntsinger stated that as the public comment period finishes, the design plan options will be further refined and narrowed down based on a scoring rubric. Ellen Reckhow recommended that more information on split targets be included in the study. Michael Parker stated that a fundamental and broader philosophical question for the DCHC MPO Board is what type of decisions will be made to influence residents’ choices in choosing cars, public transit, or multimodal options. Ellen Reckhow added

that Durham was once a leader at reducing the number of single occupant vehicle trips, and suggested that part of the reason was due to TDM activities.

Leta Huntsinger stated that the 15-501 can be better understood by separating it into four segments. Leta Huntsinger stated that there is a need to balance regional travel coming through Segment 1 and creating a safe environment while still respecting the need to provide multimodal accessibility. Leta Huntsinger added that the 15-501 study focused on strategies to improve operations at the I-40 interchange. Leta Huntsinger stated that the conflict between regional and local demand was at the greatest in Segment 2, and the goal was to give residents travel time reliability. Leta Huntsinger stated that Segment 3 is planned for slower speeds and more multimodal travel within the footprint of the roadway so that the area feels more urban in nature. Leta Huntsinger and Ellen Reckhow discussed the proposed densification surrounding the area associated with the proposed D-O LRT stations. Leta Huntsinger and Ellen Reckhow discussed the need to prioritize different modes of transportation within this corridor and the role of automobile traffic. Leta Huntsinger stated that Segment 4 has a road diet which would highlight local retail and encourage travel to this area.

Chair Damon Seils and Leta Huntsinger discussed the next steps in the 15-501 plan, which were to refine and perform a more rigorous analytical analysis based on public comments from the proposed design plan options. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed the challenges and opportunities surrounding changes for Gateway, Patterson Place, and New Hope Crossing. Ellen Reckhow recommended that in the visual designs, there ought to be a boulevard displayed as opposed to a freeway for the appropriate segments. Michael Parker stressed the importance of 15-501 being high frequency mass transit friendly; including regional bus service, accommodations for high density travel, and bus facilities. Michael Parker also recommended autonomous vehicles be included in the study. Charlie Reece discussed different design challenges for the different segments, especially the I-40 interchange. Leta Huntsinger stated that channelization or roundabouts are options to slow people down who travel from Segment 2 to

Segment 3. Pam Hemminger discussed traffic coming from UNC Healthcare and the ways in which the circulator can mitigate traffic. Renee Price addressed the importance of design with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance within the designs.

No action was required.

**12. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -- Amendment #1**  
**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released Amendment #1 to the 2045 Metropolitan Transit Plan (MTP) in September 2018 and conducted a public hearing in October. Andy Henry stated that staff recommends that the MPO re-release and re-adopt the 2045 MTP, which will ensure that the 2045 MTP, Triangle Regional Model (TRM) and related socioeconomic data, and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR) are officially adopted on the same date. Andy Henry added that staff expects the updated Plan to have minor changes to model-related information, such as performance measures.

Andy Henry stated that the MPO, the NCDOT and the NCDEQ (North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality) continue their work to update the regional travel demand and emissions models that are needed for the 2045 MTP and Air Quality reports. Andy Henry noted that staff expects those models to be complete and ready by mid-November. Andy Henry added that staff requests that the MPO Board authorize staff to release the updated 2045 MTP report as soon as the updated model data are incorporated into the report.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to authorize the MPO staff to release the updated 2045 MTP report for public review when the report is ready. Vernetta Alston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. Commuter Rail Transit Update**  
**Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle**



Patrick McDonough discussed the Major Investment Study (MIS) for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Commuter Rail Transit (CRT). Patrick McDonough stated that the majority of the BRT work has proceeded more quickly through the core technical team. Patrick McDonough stated that the MIS went through a peer review, which began a debate amongst partners like North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) and Norfolk Southern due to unique conditions in North Carolina where the rail lines are state owned. Patrick McDonough stated that CRT tends to have more of a focus during rush hour, which translates to stations being farther away that carry passengers farther distances. Patrick McDonough stated that Downtown Durham Station and Raleigh Union Station are planned to be two CRT stations. Patrick McDonough discussed performance targets for the CRT including ridership at peak hours. Patrick McDonough stated that a cost estimate is currently not in development due to continuing negotiations with railroad partners. Patrick McDonough stated that CAMPO has requested to designate GoTriangle as the project sponsor of the CRT, and he will provide a draft agreement to the MPO Board at the next Board meeting on December 12.

Ellen Reckhow underscored the importance of a strong relationship with the railroads and announced a planned trip to review the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). Patrick McDonough noted that NCRR has stated that a temporal separation for CRT and freight lines is not an option. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested pursuing a charrette around various issues concerning the CRT while noting that CRT will have various impacts on D-O LRT and BRT.

**14. Allocation of Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects**  
**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that the draft local input points for Division Needs projects for SPOT 5 have been reviewed twice previously by the MPO Board and the TC. The TC made its final recommendation on October 24.

Aaron Cain added that local input points from the Divisions have not yet been finalized, therefore DCHC MPO staff recommends that the motion to approve include language allowing staff,

with the concurrence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the DCHC MPO Board, to make adjustments to the MPO's local input points in order to maximize effectiveness and coordination with the Divisions.

Renee Price made a motion to approve local input points that can be amended by MPO staff with approval from the DCHC MPO Board Chair and Vice Chair. Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**15. Amendment #7 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

**Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #7 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes three bike/ped projects, each of which are proposed to receive additional funding to address cost increases: North Estes Drive (C-5179); Old Durham Road (EB-4707A); and Old Chapel Hill Road (EB-4707B). Aaron Cain stated that all three projects are proposed to receive over \$1M through this amendment, and per the DCHC MPO Public Involvement Policy, a 21-day public comment period was held for these projects from October 23 to November 13, 2018. Aaron Cain noted that there were not any public comments.

Aaron Cain added that, in addition to the above projects, there are two additional projects requesting additional Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds: Durham Bike Lanes (C-5605E) and Downtown Durham Wayfinding (C-5605H). Aaron Cain and Chair Damon Seils discussed that this completes the reprogramming of CMAQ funds to avoid rescission in September 2019.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve Amendment #7 to the FY2018-2019 TIP. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**16. Transit Asset Management - Targets**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the next three agenda items are federal Transportation Performance Measures (TPM). Andy Henry continued that federal regulations require the DCHC MPO to develop performance measures and targets for the Transit Asset Management (TAM) program. Andy Henry

noted that the DCHC MPO first approved the TAM targets in June 2017. Andy Henry stated that each of the MPO's urban transit systems— GoDurham, GoTriangle, and Chapel Hill Transit— has updated targets that they developed for their respective system. In addition to the targets, these transit systems must provide to the MPO a Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan and a checklist to show that the system is in compliance with the TAM final rule. Andy Henry discussed the State of Good Repair, which is one of the performance targets. Andy Henry added that the MPO's rural transit systems, such as Orange Public Transit (OPT), Durham County Access and Chatham Transit Network, are required to fulfill these same requirements, but these rural systems have chosen to participate in the NCDOT group TAM plan.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the State of Good Repair measures and targets. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **17. Pavement, Bridges and Travel Time Performance Measures and Targets**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that Federal regulations require the DCHC MPO to develop performance measures and targets for pavement, bridges and travel time on National Highway System (NHS) roads. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) established the performance measures and targets based on current conditions and trends. Andy Henry stated that the DCHC MPO will support the NCDOT measures and targets because the MPO must rely on NCDOT data and methodologies to calculate the values for the measures. Andy Henry added that this will be the first time the MPO has adopted these federal measures and targets.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the pavement, bridges and travel time performance measures and targets. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **18. Safety Performance Measures and Targets**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

292 Andy Henry stated that Federal regulations require the DCHC MPO to develop safety  
293 performance measures and targets and to update the targets each year. Andy Henry continued that the  
294 DCHC MPO first approved a set of safety measures and targets in February 2018, but now they must be  
295 updated for 2019. Andy Henry noted that the NCDOT established the safety measures and targets. Andy  
296 Henry stated that the DCHC MPO will adopt the NCDOT measures and targets because the MPO must  
297 rely on NCDOT data and methodologies to calculate the values for the measures.

298 Chair Damon Seils asked about the possibility of developing DCHC MPO-specific targets  
299 considering the measures for rural and urban areas of North Carolina are different. Andy Henry replied  
300 that he recommended passing the resolution today and the DCHC MPO can refine the targets at a later  
301 time. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Andy Henry discussed how Vision Zero related to these new  
302 performance targets. Andy Henry stated that he will return to the MPO Board and update Board  
303 members with staff recommendations for safety targets and update the Board on current statistics.

304 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the measures and  
305 targets. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

306 **19. NC Moves 2050 Plan**  
307 **Julie Bogle, NCDOT**

308 Julie Bogle stated that the NC Moves 2050 Plan is an update to the NCDOT's long range  
309 transportation plan to guide North Carolina's future transportation vision and implementation policies  
310 and investments. Julie Bogle stated that the plan will provide a 30-year transportation vision and  
311 implementation plan for North Carolina. Julie Bogle encouraged participation in the online survey that  
312 would close on November 30. Julie Bogle listed the stakeholder meetings; Kinston on October 24,  
313 Raleigh on October 29, and Charlotte on October 30. Julie Bogle also listed past community outreach at  
314 the State Fair, local festivals, social media and print materials. Chair Damon Seils and Julie Bogle  
315 discussed which representative from the DCHC MPO would be invited to the upcoming stakeholder

meetings. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that some of the comments online concern funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements as well as for transit.

**20. Election of Officers for the DCHC MPO Board**

**Damon Seils, Chair, DCHC MPO Board**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Chair Damon Seils stated that he and Vice Chair Wendy are coming to the end of their first term as Chair and Vice Chair and are eligible for an additional term. Chair Damon Seils stated that Vernetta Alston, Karen Howard, and Jenn Weaver have been asked to serve as a nominations committee, which has been standard practice recently. Chair Damon Seils noted that the MPO Board is required to make a decision for nominations at the next MPO Board meeting on December 12.

**REPORTS:**

**21. Report from the Board Chair**

Damon Seils, Board Chair

There was no report from the MPO Board Chair.

**19. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

There was no report from the TC Chair.

**20. Report from LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Aaron Cain reported that Margaret Hauth has resigned as the Vice Chair of the TC, and Nishith Trivedi was elected to be the new Vice Chair.

**21. NCDOT Report**

David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated that the ramp from NC 98 onto westbound 70 on the East End Connector project is now open. David Keilson stated that the Old Chapel Hill Road project is scheduled to be completed within the next few months. David Keilson also stated that the Barbee-Herndon roundabout is completed.

Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that the intersection improvements at Merritt Mill / Brewer Lane / West Franklin Street will begin in summer 2019 to avoid school traffic. Pam Hemminger commended Patrick Wilson for his presentation to Chapel Hill Town Council.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that he has no further updates to the information presented in the agenda packet.

Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD), stated that she has no further updates.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

No informational items were discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.