

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

November 28, 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on November 28, 2018, at 9:01 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
Nishith Trivedi (Vice Chair)	Orange County Planning
Kayla Seibel (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Christina 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
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	TJCOG
Tim Brock (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Patrick McDonough (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham / DCHC MPO
Lyndsay Gavin	TJCOG
Kaley Husten	TJCOG
Jenny Halsey	TJCOG

Quorum Count: 20 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:01 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.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of October 24, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Geoff Green made a motion to approve the October 24, 2018, Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Commuter Rail Project Sponsorship

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that Wake Transit and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) undertook a formal process to name GoTriangle as the project sponsor for the Durham-Wake Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) project. Aaron Cain added that the memo adopted by CAMPO was used as a template for a similar memo for the DCHC MPO Board to designate GoTriangle as the project sponsor. Aaron Cain continued that DCHC MPO TC members expressed concern regarding the contents and specificity of the draft memo that was presented at its meeting on October 24.

Bergen Watterson asked if additional candidates were in consideration for sponsorships. Patrick McDonough of GoTriangle responded that there was no other local entity that was equipped to deal

with such a large scale project, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division chose not to be placed under consideration. John Hodges-Copple agreed that GoTriangle is the logical project sponsor, however, he advocated for the language to be included into a future resolution as follows:

“That GoTriangle is committed to a collaborative partnership epitomized by the statement; everybody at the table, every step of the way. And that this commitment will be demonstrated through GoTriangle fulfilling its project sponsor role by being the facilitators and managing partner, guiding the partners through a clear concurrence process and adhering to a set of guiding principles in all facets of work with expectations that other partners will do the same. And that these guiding principles are: 1) Address collaboration, transparency and accountability 2) Clearly spell out schedules and decisions to be made 3) Be based on clear documented plans and evidence 4) Emphasize a focus on users of the investment.”

Patrick McDonough stated that any language added to the memo must be reviewed by GoTriangle’s legal team. Patrick McDonough continued that project sponsor designation is not a requirement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and he warned against language that could inhibit project development. Patrick McDonough continued that significant changes from the project sponsorship resolution from CAMPO could be confusing for the process. John Hodges-Copple stated that including this language would help to avoid similar issues that the Durham-Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) has experienced and cautioned against rushing into project development before an expectation agreement had been reached. Patrick McDonough stated that Rail Traffic Control (RTC) is crucial for partnership with the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR). Patrick McDonough shared that NCRR is also unsure about to whom concerns should be addressed in order to receive a timely and accurate response.

Chair Ellen Beckmann, Aaron Cain, and Bergen Waterson discussed the role of the Major Investment Study (MIS) process or the County Staff Working Groups in developing oversight or language framework to add to the project sponsor designation memo. Aaron Cain stated that the language that CAMPO uses should be similar to the DCHC language. John Hodges-Copple stated that agreement on expectations may be more difficult once a sponsor has already been chosen.

Felix Nwoko and Aaron Cain affirmed that language added to the sponsor designation memo ought to be sent to GoTriangle’s legal team for review, and then the document would be referred back

to the TC. Aaron Cain and Patrick McDonough discussed that there is not a required timeline for the project sponsor designation because it is not required by FTA.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that she prefers to separate program sponsor designation and expectations of the program sponsor. Chair Ellen Beckmann recommended that the issue ought to be referred to MPO staff in order to initiate a conversation with CAMPO before bringing the memo to the MPO Board and that the TC action would not include adding language for expectations of the project sponsor.

Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend approval of GoTriangle as the project sponsor for Durham-Wake CRT. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Triangle Transportation Demand Management Program Update

Jenny Halsey, TJCOG

Jenny Halsey stated that the goal of the Triangle Transportation Demand (TDM) Management Program is to reduce the growth of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 25% through strategies that encourage alternative modes of travel. Jenny Halsey continued that the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) receives Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funding from DCHC MPO and CAMPO as well as other funding from NCDOT to support the TDM program. Jenny Halsey noted that there is oversight on the process in the administration of competitive grants. Jenny Halsey explained that each grantee must cover at least one of 62 possible hotspots, which are areas of high work commute trip density that provide the best opportunities for TDM services. Jenny Halsey stated that grantees are required to make a 50% funding match, despite CMAQ dollars only requiring a 20% local match.

Jenny Halsey added that information is gathered from quarterly reports and surveys from grantees. Jenny Halsey stated that surveys are distributed to each grantee, and then the grantees distributes to the individual employees or students within that entity. Jenny Halsey discussed the differences in travel mode preference among employees and students. Jenny Halsey also discussed the differences in motivations of employees and students to engage in alternate modes of transportation.

Jenny Halsey continued that the survey also included a section where employees and students could provide comments and observations.

Felix Nwoko asked about the source of the VMT data. Lindsay Galvin responded that the methodology was developed by LDH Consulting, and the numbers derive from the quarterly reports and the survey responses.

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked about which grantee is most effective and efficient with its grant funding. John Hodges-Copple and Jenny Halsey stated that there are different situations within a region of access to modes of transportation and infrastructure, so each TDM dollar spent will impact each grantee differently. John Hodges-Copple continued that TJCOG has not yet begun to calculate effectiveness or efficiency data. Jenny Halsey added that NCDOT is in the process of providing to TJCOG a set of enhanced performance metrics.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that CMAQ funding that can be spent on buses or bike lanes, for example, and it would be helpful to understand in what respective areas those would be most effective. Jenny Halsey responded that NCDOT funding is prohibited to be spent on capital investments and can only be spent on marketing and outreach. John Hodges-Copple added that funding spent on TDM currently has a greater impact than alternative supply-based investments. Felix Nwoko suggested adding the TDM Update to the DCHC MPO website. Jenny Halsey added that TJCOG has exceeded its goal of reducing the growth of vehicle miles traveled by 25%.

7. DCHC MPO State of the Region 2018 Report
Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the DCHC MPO State of the Region 2018 Report highlights the trends and underpinnings of growth. Felix Nwoko requested that TC members provide comments to him before TC meeting on December 19, so that they can be incorporated into the final report. Felix stated that he plans to take the report to the MPO Board for its meeting on January 9 with plans for them to approve in February 2018. Felix Nwoko discussed the use of performance measures. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked

if the report will be an annual occurrence. Felix Nwoko affirmed that the report is planned to be annual. Geoff Green discussed how American Community Survey (ACS) data can be problematic in highlighting trends due to its margin of error. Felix Nwoko responded that using ACS data is a requirement. John Hodges-Copple and Felix Nwoko discussed breaking the regional report into sub-regions. Andy Henry asked if there will continue to be an annual DCHC MPO report. Felix Nwoko responded that there will continue to be an annual DCHC MPO report. Felix Nwoko discussed that the mobility report card in the State of the Region Report provides the trend of the state of mobility within the region. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed that the intended audience are policy makers and the public. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked how this will be distributed. Felix Nwoko stated that it could be distributed to member agencies.

8. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -- Amendment #1

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board, on November 14, authorized the MPO staff to release Amendment #1 to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) upon completion of the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR). Andy Henry recommended that both the 2045 MTP and the AQ CDR are adopted at the same time because both are based on the Triangle Regional Model (TRM), therefore, it will mitigate issues when amending the 2045 MTP or the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

9. Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

Andy Henry, MPO Staff

John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG

Andy Henry stated that, in September 2018, the MPO Board authorized the MPO staff to release the AQ CDR when the report is ready. Staff will update the Technical Committee (TC) on the release of the AQ CDR. A resolution is attached to adopt the AQ CDR.

Andy Henry added that the minimum public comment period is 30 days for the AQ CDR and 42 days for the MTP. Andy Henry stated that staff is scheduled to release the AQ CRD on or before

November 28, 2018, and Andy Henry proposed that the MPO Board conduct a public hearing on January 9, 2018, and then readopt the 2045 MTP and TRM.

10. High Impact-Low Cost Call for Projects FY2020-2021

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that NCDOT Divisions 5, 7 and 8 released a call for projects for the High Impact-Low Cost (HILC) program. Aaron Cain added that HILC provides funding for small highway projects that could produce a large improvement in traffic flow or safety, but may not score well in the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) process. Aaron Cain stated that each Division is expected to receive from \$1.5-2M for HILC for each of the next two fiscal years. Aaron Cain continued projects are also expected to be implemented quickly, therefore no project should require extensive planning and design, right-of-way (ROW), or utility relocations. Aaron Cain listed examples of HILC projects, including: restriping, shoulder widenings, traffic signals, and small intersection improvements.

Aaron Cain requested the submittal of projects to include a detailed description, map, and cost estimate of the project. Aaron Cain added that deadlines for submitting projects for Divisions 5, 7 and 8 are December 18, December 3, and December 7, respectively. Aaron Cain recommended allowing adequate time when submitting projects.

11. STBGDA Call for Projects for FY19 and FY20

Aaron Cain and Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that DCHC MPO issued a call for projects using the local discretionary portion of FY2019 and FY2020 State Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable (STBGDA) funds on September 26, 2018. Aaron Cain added that the deadline was extended to December 3. Aaron Cain continued that the City of Durham and the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro have yet to provide information to MPO staff.

Aaron Cain stated that NCDOT has made available to the DCHC MPO an additional \$1.195M in STBG-Any Area funds for swap for STBGDA funds due to two obligations made in FY18. Aaron Cain

added that this allows for an additional \$1.195M of STBGDA funds to be disbursed equitably within the MPO. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed that there is no timeline for these funds to be spent, however, they would prefer to spend these funds in a timely manner.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain reviewed the accompanying memo on distribution of STBG-Any Area funds and discussed that the best option is Option 1, which is the application of funds to shovel-ready bike/ped projects that need additional construction funding. Aaron Cain stated that Option 1 lists a set of possible projects for funding, but those options are able to be changed, which resulted in discussion about several possible project changes and substitutions. Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested avoiding projects that could be funded through Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding because historically, the NCDOT had available TAP funding for local projects. There was discussion about the eligibility of highway and highway capacity projects. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed funding adding right-of-way to ongoing projects that need additional funding.

12. Amendment #8 to the FY2018-2027 TIP

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #8 to the FY2018-2027 TIP includes changes to a bike/ped project in Durham (EB-5514), the flexing of Orange County STBGDA funds to transit (TP-5151), two funding changes at the request of NCDOT (P-5717 and U-5745), and an adjustment to U-4726 to ensure sufficient funding in the correct project number for various bike/ped projects within the DCHC boundary. Aaron Cain added that the funding for the sub-projects in U-4726 was previously approved.

Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt Amendment #8 to the FY2018-2027 TIP. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Performance Management Agreement on Data Sharing

Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO

Julie Bogle, NCDOT

Aaron Cain stated that Federal regulations require that MPOs and transit agencies sign an agreement with NCDOT to share data amongst agencies. Aaron Cain added that the DCHC MPO is coordinating the effort to obtain the signatures from the transit agencies within the MPO's jurisdiction.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend the Board Chair sign the Performance Management Agreement on Data Sharing. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

14. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko discussed there is a conceptual design underway for the Triangle Bikeway. Felix Nwoko recommended that the TC create a subcommittee to discuss the Triangle Bikeway and possible issues facing it, such as connections to Chapel Hill. Felix Nwoko added that conceptual designs have been approved by CAMPO. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the preliminary plans have the Triangle Bikeway route from Raleigh to the Research Triangle Park (RTP), and reminded the TC that the RTP is unincorporated Durham County. Chair Ellen Beckmann also expressed concerns about the noise of I-40 along the proposed route.

15. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that there are a variety of ongoing public input meetings and outreach.

16. NCDOT Reports

David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated that there is no additional comment to the report.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that planning and design activities are continuing for the project to extend Orange Grove Road.

Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8 stated that there was no additional comment to the report.

252 Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division, stated that the NC Moves 50 survey end date will be
253 November 30 and that an expanded public outreach effort is planned. Julie Bogle added that there is an
254 interactive map on NCmoves50.com where residents can provide comments until April 2019.

255 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

256 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

257 **17. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

258 There were no informational items.

259 **ADJOURNMENT:**

260 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
261 adjourned at 10:55 a.m.