

DCHC Metropolitan Planning Organization

*101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

1:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Committee Room 2nd Floor Durham City Hall

DCHC MPO Board

1. Roll Call

Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated above. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that both Chair Damon Seils and Renee Price made requests for excused absences. Jenn Weaver made a motion to excuse Chair Damon Seils and Renee Price from the MPO Board Meeting. Lydia Lavelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [Renee Price later arrived at the MPO Board meeting during the public comment period.]

2. Ethics Reminder

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs 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.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that, by April 16, 2019, each Board Member and Alternate must fill out the Statement of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure for 2019. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the forms can be located on the North Carolina State Ethics Commission website.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

4. Public Comments

Heidi Perry requested that North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) allow 'Bikes May Use Full Lane' signs on county roads, while highlighting an instance of a driver driving dangerously close to a bicyclist in Orange County. Heidi Perry also cited a 2016 North Carolina State law that states a driver must allow for four feet of distance between his/her motor vehicle and a bicyclist when passing.

5. Directives to Staff

[19-100](#)

The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed ongoing meetings with the North Carolina Rail Division and a planned visit by the Rail Division to a future MPO Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. February 27, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes[19-126](#)

Board Action: **Board Action:** Approve the minutes of the February 27, 2019 Board meeting.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated the February 27, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes should be corrected on line 105 to read "Renee Price," instead of "Renee Parker."

Renee Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2019, MPO Board meeting as amended. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

7. **Remarks and Discussion with Secretary of Transportation James H. Trogdon, III (45 minutes)**

[19-127](#)

James H. Trogdon, III, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation

Wendy Jacobs, MPO Board Vice Chair

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Board Action: **Board Action:** The MPO Board welcomes Secretary Trogdon and greatly appreciates his taking the time to meet with the Board.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs welcomed Secretary James Trogdon III to the MPO Board Meeting. Secretary Trogdon stated his first priority is to improve program delivery throughout North Carolina. Secretary Trogdon stated that his second priority is to improve safety. Secretary Trogdon continued that he plans to work with the General Assembly to introduce safety corridors to pilot different safety initiatives. Secretary Trogdon stated his third priority is to improve mobility and ameliorate congestion. Secretary Trogdon stated that this his plan is not to have a 'one size fits all' approach to each of the 14 Transportation Divisions throughout North Carolina, and to improve mobility projects that people need, want, and will use.

Secretary Trogdon stated that his fourth priority is to improve the appearance and conditions of North Carolina transportation facilities. Secretary Trogdon stated that overgrown vegetation and an abundance of litter threaten safety and a flourishing tourism industry. Secretary Trogdon stated that his fifth priority focuses on sustainable revenue and innovative financing tools. Secretary Trogdon explained that the NC First Commission would bring together economists, financial experts, local government officials, and business leaders in order to create a plan to pay for transportation investments and future technologies. Secretary Trogdon noted that such technologies, such as drones, have increased in popularity over the past few years, and air management system plans will be necessary.

Secretary Trogdon stated that his sixth priority is to become better partners with businesses to develop the human resources necessary to sustain North Carolina's economy. Secretary Trogdon added that the engineering and contracting communities, as well as the transit service providers and municipalities, will need to work together in order to recruit incoming talent to solve future issues.

Secretary Trogdon stated that his last priority is to better communicate internally and externally. Secretary Trogdon continued that he plans to increase community engagement on transportation issues by implementing new technologies to reach the social media accounts of drivers, and equipping new bridge construction with fiber optic capabilities. Secretary Trogdon continued that North Carolina had been selected for a federal grant that would widen I-95 from Virginia to South Carolina and extend broadband capabilities in eastern North Carolina. Secretary Trogdon stated that Julie White has procured two autonomous people-movers and is searching for locations in which to test them. Secretary Trogdon discussed the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI), and how he is a proponent for a statewide travel demand model. Secretary Trogdon also stated that the results of the NC Frist Commission are ongoing and will help to determine how growth will be supported in the state.

Secretary Trogdon and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed their support for the Durham-Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) project. Secretary Trogdon also stated that he is recommitting to fully implement the Complete Streets policy that has already been developed. Pam Hemminger stated that the ability to fund sidewalks would be an important part of the

Complete Streets program.

Ellen Reckhow discussed the importance of bicycle and pedestrian (bike/ped) paths along future projects, such as NC 54 and NC 98. Secretary Trogon stated that there are legislative restrictions concerning constructing standalone greenway facilities. Ellen Reckhow stated there was a plan sent to NCDOT proposing that the funding used for bicycle lanes on the road could be spent on multiuse paths instead. Ellen Reckhow stated that, in reference to reducing greenhouse gases by 40% by 2025, in Massachusetts there are solar collectors along the Massachusetts Pike Highway in the right-of-way. Secretary Trogon responded that, in regard to Governor Roy Cooper's order to grow electric vehicle usage, he is researching many different options for electric car charging stations.

Penny Rich asked about the implication of adding additional roads to alleviate traffic congestion and how it relates to the NC First Commission, which plans to reduce the use of cars over time. Secretary Trogon responded that growth in transportation will be focused in areas that will interact with multimodal transit areas of opportunity.

Michael Parker asked about long-term planning for transit infrastructure. Michael Parker also asked about changing funding formulas so they are more beneficial to transit. Secretary Trogon responded that the funding formulas are able to be changed in the General Assembly. Secretary Trogon added that he is working with other transportation experts to research the concept of a fixed guideway in order to support transit investment. Secretary Trogon also stated that it is important to integrate planning resources to solve transportation problems, which involves a combination of transit and highway options.

Jenn Weaver asked about the growing traffic in the relatively small Town of Hillsborough and how to best manage traffic. Jenn Weaver also mentioned that the local match requirement is a barrier for traffic improvement. Secretary Trogon responded that it is important to work to support projects at the local government level and work with local agencies.

Lydia Lavelle reiterated the request of Heidi Perry to introduce appropriate bike signage to county roads, and stated that Orange County would be willing to partner with the NCDOT to pilot new programs.

Pam Hemminger stated that the Superstreet program, in respect to 15-501, is often not appropriate for areas with many bicyclists and pedestrians, for example at the Friday Center of the University of North Carolina. Pam Hemminger requested further conversations about Superstreets. Secretary Trogon stated that smaller alternative options are available instead of Superstreets, and that he is open to further discussions.

Renee Price asked about rural access to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Secretary Trogon responded that NCDOT has inventoried bike/ped facilities and is in the process of developing a statewide plan for greater connectivity. Renee Price also asked about representation on the NC First Commission Board. Secretary Trogon stated that members of the Board have not yet been finalized.

Ellen Reckhow requested additional support from the NCDOT in negotiating with the North Carolina Railroad for more right-of-way access for the future Durham-Raleigh Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) project.

Renee Price asked how the Volkswagen settlement money will be used. Secretary

Trogdon stated that the funding is being administered by the Division of Environmental Quality, and areas of focus include electric vehicle charging stations and conversion of bus fleets to electric powered buses.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that it is important to focus attention of the residents to their transportation choices and how it impacts the environment, housing, community, and taxes. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs continued that it is necessary to recognize that future technologies may not be equitable for all DCHC MPO residents. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs committed to working with the NCDOT on piloting and supporting future projects that will benefit residents. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed that DCHC MPO and Capital Area Municipal Planning Organization (CAMPO) have met several times in order to work collaboratively and introduce a set of shared legislative goals. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs recommended that bike/ped projects in the draft 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) be programmed with the right-of-way in the first five years in order to obtain federal funding. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs also mentioned issues related to the NCDOT Cost Estimator.

Minutes Recording Document

[19-110](#)

REPORTS:

8. Report from the Board Chair

[19-101](#)

Damon Seils, Board Chair

Board Action: Board Action: Receive the report from the Board Chair

There was no report from the MPO Board.

9. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

[19-102](#)

Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair

Board Action: Board Action: Receive the report from the TC Chair.

There was no report from the Technical Committee.

10. Report from LPA Staff

[19-103](#)

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Board Action: Board Action: Receive the report from LPA Staff.

Aaron Cain stated that the special MPO Board Meeting will no longer occur.

11. NCDOT Report[19-104](#)

Joey Hopkins (David Keilson/Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT

Mike Mills (Pat Wilson/Ed Lewis), Division 7 - NCDOT

Brandon Jones (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT

John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

Board Action: Board Action: Receive the reports from NCDOT.

David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated that he had no additional comments to the report.

Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that he had no additional comments to the report.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that he had no additional comments to the report.

There was no further report from Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**12. Recent News Articles and Updates**[19-105](#)

Recent News, Articles and Updates are located in the agenda packet.

Aaron Cain added that the public meeting for the east Durham siding and grade separation project will be from 5-7 p.m. at the Hamner Center at Research Triangle Park (RTP).

Adjourn**Next meeting: April 10, 9 a.m., Committee Room**

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs entertained a motion to adjourn. Michael Parker made a motion to adjourn. Charlie Reece seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11: 21 a.m.

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings:
Public Meeting for East Durham Siding & Grade Separation Project (P-5706)
Thursday, March 14, Hamner Conference Center, 15 T.W. Alexander Drive
NCAMPO 2019 Conference April 24-26, Charlotte