

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

March 27, 2019

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on March 27, 2019, 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:

Nish Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Zach Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Cooperative Extension
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka (Member)	University of North Carolina
Tim Brock (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Pat Wilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
Laura Woods (Alternate)	Durham City/Council Planning
Sara Young (Alternate)	Durham City/County Planning
Harmon Crutchfield (Alternate)	City of Durham Transportation
Patrick McDonough (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Cy Stober	City of Mebane
Josh Hurst	Clark Nexsen
Becky McDonnell	Town of Chapel Hill
Ellis Caton	Raleigh/Durham Airport Authority
Rachel Stair	Raleigh/Durham Airport Authority
Caitlyn Meyer	Geodecisions
Wannetta Mallette	BGMPO

Quorum Count: 16 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Nish Trivedi 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 Technical Committee (TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair Nish Trivedi reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Dale McKeel requested to add Safe Routes to School Grant as agenda item #11a.

3. Public Comments

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of February 27, 2019, Meeting Minutes

There was no further discussion of the February 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

5. Landscaping and Lighting of Roundabouts

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that that the MPO Board requested staff to develop a report to address landscaping and lighting issues at roundabouts within the DCHC MPO jurisdiction, which will go to the MPO Board on their March 13 meeting.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chance Mullis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. Presentation on SPOT 6

Jason Schronce, PE, NCDOT

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Jason Schronce introduced his presentation of Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) 6. Jason Schronce stated that Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law prioritizes capital projects across all modes of transportation. Jason Schronce added that State projects receive 40% of funds;

71 Regional projects receive 30% of funds; and Division projects receive 30% of funds. Jason Schronce noted
72 that funding can cascade from the State tier to the Regional tier, and funding at the Regional tier can
73 cascade to the Division tier. Jason Schronce stated that the SPOT 6 workgroup consists of four MPO
74 members and four RPO members. Jason Schronce continued that the workgroup also includes a member
75 from each of the following groups: Metro Mayors, League of Municipalities, Regional Council of
76 Governments, and Association of County Commissioners. Jason Schronce also stated that there are 12
77 North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) representatives as well to match the 12 members
78 listed above. Geoff Green asked if there are any transit advisory representatives involved in the working
79 group. Jason Schronce responded that Julie White, NCDOT Deputy Director of Multimodal Transportation,
80 is present at the workgroup. Jason Schronce and Aaron Cain discussed how freight data is accounted for in
81 the SPOT 6 process.

82 Jason Schronce explained that highway criteria is weighted 60% for existing conditions on the
83 roadway, and 40% for benefits of the project. Jason Schronce discussed the possibility of changing the
84 weight for the highway criteria, but stated that it is probably similar to that of P5.0. Jason Schronce
85 responded to a question by Aaron Cain by explaining that Regional and Division weights can be changed if
86 all MPOs, RPOs, and Divisions within that certain Region or Division, respectively, are in agreement with
87 the change.

88 Jason Schronce discussed the relationship between the SPOT and State Transportation
89 Improvement Program (STIP) offices. Jason Schronce stated that projects in the first five years of the State
90 STIP are in the delivery phase, and projects in the second five years are in the developmental phase. Jason
91 Schronce elaborated that projects that are in the delivery phase are committed projects and are not
92 required to be resubmitted for prioritization and is updated every two years. Jason Schronce then
93 discussed the differences between the Strategic Transportation Improvement (STI) law and STIP, and how
94 the schedule of both processes overlap.

Jason Schronce discussed several issues that the P6.0 working group is currently addressing, but have not been approved by the Board of Transportation. Jason Schronce noted that up to 500 points could be flexed between Region and Division projects, although the maximum point possibility per project will remain at 100 points. Jason Schronce stated that extending the committed window from five to six years might occur for P6.0. Jason Schronce stated that in P6.0 there will be two sets of default weights for highway projects; one for mobility projects and one for modernization projects. Jason Schronce announced that there will be automated scoring for bicycle and pedestrian (bike/ped) projects via Project Atlas. Zach Hallock asked how bike/ped projects are scored. Jason Schronce also noted that the safety benefit factors will also be updated. Jason Schronce and Chair Nish Trivedi discussed construction projects, and the practice of bundling projects together for scoring.

John Hodges-Copple proposed that the changes for SPOT 6 include more transparency, data source standardization, better means of addressing multimodal transportation, and how to address dual benefits in the technical process. Jason Schronce responded that Hannah Cockburn is developing the means to quantify bike/ped benefits to be an aspect of the benefit cost equation. Dale McKeel and Jason Schronce discussed multimodal options for cross street sections and highway projects, as well as how funding would be addressed.

Geoff Green and expressed concern over funding if committed projects are moved from five to six years. Jason Schronce responded that a committee was formed that reviews projects where costs have increased. Aaron Cain and Jason Schronce discussed when the cost estimation tool will be released. Geoff Green requested better clarity and communication for items that are considered to be from state legislation as opposed to NCDOT regulation.

7. Upgrades to DCHC MPO TIP Database
Caitlyn Meyer, Gannett Fleming/Geodecisions
Durmus Cesur, LPA Staff
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Caitlyn Meyer introduced her presentation about Upgrades to the DCHC MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Database. Caitlyn Meyer stated that the database update has already occurred and is able to be accessed. Caitlyn Meyer stated that one of the goals of the project is to increase transparency across the entire project funding process. Caitlyn Meyer described that Phase One of the database update is to increase performance, streamline the interface, and view the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and the TIP projects all in one place. Caitlyn Meyer added that the ability to search historically for past projects is available only for administrators.

Caitlyn Meyer stated that Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the DCHC MPO TIP database update are upcoming. Caitlyn Meyer continued that there will be a scoring tool added and an application added to increase workflow. Caitlyn Meyer stated that a dynamic search function will also be added. John Hodges-Copple and Caitlyn Meyer discussed having some historic information available to not only the administrator, but to the general public as well. John Hodges-Copple and Caitlyn Meyer also discussed public access to safety data. Caitlyn Meyer stated that adding layers to the maps will also be possible. Chair Nish Trivedi and Caitlyn Meyer discussed future Orange County database maintenance.

8. NC Moves 2050

Nastasha Earle-Young, NCDOT

Nastasha Earle-Young stated that NC Moves 2050 is a long-range transportation plan that began in August 2018 and will conclude in August 2020. Nastasha Earle-Young explained that NC Moves 2050 is a four step plan that includes current assessment, uncertainties, possible futures, and a plan of action. Nastasha Earle-Young stated that there continues to be social media outreach and public involvement outreach, which includes a public survey at [ncdot.gov/ncmoves](https://www.ncdot.gov/ncmoves). Nastasha Earle-Young stated that there are eight white papers planned on topics including demographics, economy, tourism, partnership, funding, technology, security, and resiliency.

John Hodges-Copple suggested that the three regions of the Piedmont, Triad, and Charlotte meet to discuss common goals and planning, as well as to discuss funding and the economy. John Hodges-Copple also stated that it is important to note that future technology often requires an extended period of time to fully develop and implement, and that it could create situations of inequity between people of different economic statuses. Geoff Green stated that the concept of land use is important to be aware of when discussing the future of the state.

9. Triangle Regional Freight Plan
Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the Triangle Regional Freight Plan was previously presented before the TC Board and the MPO Board, and the MPO Board provided comments to be addressed in an updated Freight Plan before it would be approved. Aaron Cain stated at the previous MPO Board meeting there were Board Members who made comments about lack of specificity of non-freight uses, and an MPO Board Member who requested the freight plan address the concept of resiliency. Aaron Cain added that he is presenting for Andy Henry who is unable to attend.

Aaron Cain stated that this is this first freight plan for the Triangle region, and it is an effort between DCHC MPO, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and NCDOT. Aaron Cain added that there is not funding within the SPOT process that is allocated for freight. Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed how freight impacts the scores of highway projects in the SPOT process. Aaron Cain stated that the Freight Plan is required by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Aaron Cain added that there are changes to certain freight corridors only within Durham. Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed the procedure for updates to the freight plan. John Hodges-Copple and Aaron Cain discussed the Gregson Street/Duke Street freight corridor.

John Hodges Copple suggested adding the following language to the Freight Plan to address the DCHC MPO's expectations for the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) rail corridor:

“Freight investments along the NCRR should clearly demonstrate how they accommodate the NCRR’s 4-track footprint, that the investments are the most cost-effective use of taxpayer money for freight and passenger rail service in adopted NCDOT and MPO Plans, and briefly address future investments that would likely need to be made for adopted NCDOT and MPO plans to be implemented.”

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve of the freight plan as amended with the language included above. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. NC 54 West Corridor Study - Phase Two Update

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that Phase Two of the NC 54 West Corridor study was planned at the request of the MPO Board to address unresolved issues. Aaron Cain added that Phase Two is scheduled to be completed in June 2019. Aaron Cain added that the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO) and Triangle Area Rural Transportation Planning Organization (TARPO) were likely to continue planning with only the original phase of the study.

Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed transit aspects of Phase Two and possibly further studies of transit outside of the DCHC MPO jurisdiction. Mo Devlin and Aaron Cain discussed how a separate study of NC 54 from Fayetteville Road to Manning Drive could be incorporated into Phase Two of the NC 54 Corridor Study. Cy Stober and Aaron Cain discussed how public outreach for Phase Two would be located within the DCHC jurisdiction. Cy Stober asked if there would be any future consideration of Park and Ride stations along the 54 Corridor outside of the DCHC MPO jurisdiction. Aaron Cain responded that the MPO Board did not request further study of that aspect. Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed the possibility of future transit plan impacts on the NC 54 study.

11. Amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) consists of two projects in Durham that were released for a 21-day public comment period due to the addition of more than \$1M in each project. Aaron Cain added that these two projects

included: EB-5703, LaSalle Street sidewalks; and EB-5715, Duke Street sidewalks. Aaron Cain stated that no public comments had been received to date, and that today is the last day for public comments.

Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #11 is also comprised of several projects from NCDOT, including several new statewide projects from the Public Transit Division. Aaron Cain stated that NCDOT requested to move Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for C-5183 B, Alston Avenue Sidewalks, from FY19 to FY20, which could jeopardize funding due to the pending federal CMAQ rescission. Aaron Cain stated that MPO staff recommended not to include C-5183 B in Amendment #11. Aaron Cain and John Hodges-Copple discussed that Transportation Alternative Program Direct Attributable (TAP-DA) funds are subject to rescission, and they were waiting to confirm if Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds were subject to rescission.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP, except for C-5183 B. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11a. Safe School Grant Application
Dale McKeel, City of Durham/DCHC MPO

Dale McKeel stated that the Safe School Grant funds projects for non-infrastructure safe routes to school. Dale McKeel stated that there have been participant agencies within the DCHC MPOs that have submitted grant proposals, therefore he requested the support of the TC to prepare a letter for approval of the MPO Board meeting at their next meeting on the April 10.

Geoff Green made a motion to support preparing a letter in support of the Safe School Grant applicants. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

12. Reports from the LPA Staff
Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that there are vacancies for TC Members and Alternates and encouraged attendees to find participants, especially within the City of Durham and Town of Chapel Hill. Aaron Cain stated the verification from a County Manager, Town Manager, City Manager or Chief Executive Officer is needed for verification. Geoff Green and Aaron Cain discussed further outreach for unfilled vacancies.

13. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair

There was no additional report from Chair Nish Trivedi.

14. NCDOT Reports

There was no additional report from Division 5.

Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there is no additional report.

Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that there is no additional report.

Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, stated that there is no additional report.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

16. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

Aaron Cain stated that the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) in Charlotte, NC, begins on April 24, which is on the same day as the next TC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.