

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 28, 2019**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 28, 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
Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Jomar Pastorelle (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Zach Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Kayla Seibel (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
Scott Levitan (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Jay Heikes (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO

Quorum Count: 19 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. Aaron Cain

announced the following as members and participants of the TC: Evan Tenenbaum, City of Durham; Brooke Ganser, Durham County; Kayla Seibel, City of Durham; Alex Cahill, Durham County; Brian Taylor, City of Durham; Scott Levitan, Research Triangle Park; and Jay Heikes, GoTriangle.

**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 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

Evan Tenenbaum stated that Minutes did not reflect that he was a Member of TC. Bergen Watterson stated that Jomar Pastorelle was not listed as present.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**5. NC 54 West Corridor Study - Phase Two**

**Don Bryson, VHB**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that the NC 54 West Corridor Study, which began in spring of 2018, focused on the NC 54 corridor from Old Fayetteville Road intersection in Carrboro through the I-85 intersection in Graham. Aaron Cain stated that VHB has since reviewed additional aspects of the NC 54 corridor in order to better understand the travel needs in the corridor.

Don Bryson presented informational maps of the travel sheds, or travel markets, of the NC 54 corridor. Don Bryson continued to present information regarding travel market maps of the NC 54 corridor and of smaller, local streets. Don Bryson also shared information on the future travel markets of

69 NC 54 and the surrounding roads. Don Bryson also reviewed the growth forecast for the area. Don  
70 Bryson shared forecasts for travel markets comparing NC 54 with and without widening, and the  
71 impacted travel patterns in the area. Don Bryson presented information about current transit patterns  
72 and uses in the area, including information shared from the biannual Transportation Study for the  
73 University of North Carolina (UNC).

74 Zach Hallock discussed the role of the MPO in widening 54 West while also protecting the safety  
75 interests of Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Zach Hallock and Aaron Cain discussed the point system of SPOT 6  
76 and how regional MPOs and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Divisions would  
77 impact the points process. Zach Hallock and Aaron Cain discussed vehicle trip forecasts should NC 54 be  
78 widened. Aaron Cain responded that the difficulty of forecasting the long range number of vehicle trips  
79 is due to numerous variables. Aaron Cain and Zach Hallock discussed the possibility of NC 86 being used  
80 as a bus or transit corridor. Aaron Cain stated that NCDOT would be an appropriate partner to discuss  
81 this proposal.

82 Chair Nish Trivedi discussed how NC 54 widening was submitted in SPOT 5. Chair Nish Trivedi  
83 stated that safety issues and concerns along NC 54 were detailed in the Phase 1 of the NC 54 West  
84 Corridor Study. Chair Nish Trivedi discussed freight travel's impact on safety. Chair Nish Trivedi also  
85 requested trend forecast for freight accidents, and if accidents have increased. Don Bryson discussed  
86 that most of the growth patterns have occurred faster than projected on the west end of NC 54 as  
87 opposed to the east side near Carrboro. Chair Nish Trivedi discussed models for forecasting, including  
88 the Triangle Regional Model.

89 Jay Heikes asked if new bus routes were analyzed for new Park and Ride stations. Don Bryson  
90 responded that new bus routes were not extensively analyzed for new Park and Ride stations, but that  
91 current service providers do not have plans for significant service in the corridor due to lack of ridership  
92 demand and greater needs on other routes. Jay Heikes asked if the benefits were analyzed of adding

service on 54 that served new Park and Ride stations versus expanding existing Park and Ride stations. Don Bryson and Aaron Cain responded that particular scenario was not included in the scope of the study. Jay Heikes, Aaron Cain, Cain and Don Bryson discussed alternate transit routes. Chair Nish Trivedi stated that there is a new STIP project that is providing more service for PART Route 4.

Aaron Cain stated that a presentation will be given to the MPO Board on September 11, and there will be a memorandum to review before the TC meeting on September 25. Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed presentations for local jurisdictions. Aaron Cain and Bergen Watterson discussed possible dates and times for these local jurisdiction meetings.

Tina Moon and Aaron Cain discussed how a side path along NC 54 would be funded. Aaron Cain stated that if this project is determined a betterment project, local funding would be needed, which would then be the responsibility of mostly the respective counties. Aaron Cain stated that the side path from Main Street in Carrboro to Anderson Park is committed in the draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and that DOT may approve it by September 6.

**6. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan -- Amendment #2 (MTP)**  
**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated LPA staff proposed amending projects in Appendix 1 and text in section 7 of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Andy Henry stated that the reasons for the changes to the MTP were as follows: ensuring consistency with the FY 2000-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); making new highway improvement projects eligible for SPOT 6.0 evaluation; adding premium transit projects to serve demand in the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) corridor and to connect with CAMPO BRT projects; and clarifying MPO policy on freeway access and on appropriate bike/pedestrian facilities on arterial roadways.

Andy Henry listed the projects that have been advanced, delayed, deleted and added in the TIP. Andy Henry continued that some added projects were from existing MTP roadway projects but need to be

separately listed as interchange and grade separation projects. Andy Henry continued that the I-85 project in Orange County was consolidated into a single MTP entry.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed the cost of NC 147 Operational Improvements (TIP #U-5937). Andy Henry stated that the cost referenced in the MTP was determined from information in the TIP. Bergen Watterson and Andy Henry discussed the cost of the Fordham Boulevard project (TIP #U-5304F). Andy Henry stated that he would respond to Bergen Watterson with information on the cost increase following the TC Meeting.

Bergen Watterson stated concerns about how other transit projects in the MTP and submitted in SPOT 6 might impact the funding chances of the North-South Bus Rapid Transit in Chapel Hill. Aaron Cain responded that the NSBRT was one of the highest scoring projects in SPOT 5, and there will be further calculations for future projects that can be discussed. Andy Henry listed premium bus service from Chapel Hill to Pittsboro, Chapel Hill to Hillsborough, and Durham to Raleigh. Aaron Cain noted to Chair Nish Trivedi that the Durham-Raleigh Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) project is already listed in the MTP.

Andy Henry discussed adding additional text to the Major Roadway Access Management section in the MTP. Andy Henry discussed adding information in the MTP about considering speed and volume of vehicle traffic when determining appropriate bicycle facilities. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that there is a new NCDOT policy regarding bicycle facilities that has not yet been released. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Dale McKeel discussed the strength of the language used to describe the bicycle facilities. Dale McKeel suggested waiting until the NCDOT has released their design standard before changing the language. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that there are projects underway that could be impacted. Andy Henry suggested that Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann meet with him and Dale McKeel to refine the language regarding bicycle facilities in the MTP. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Scott Levitan discussed bicycle facilities and grade separation at Cornwallis Road near the Research Triangle Park (RTP). Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that it is a committed project.

Richard Hancock and Andy Henry discussed the grade separation project at US 15-501 and Mount Moriah Road (TIP #U6067). Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann, Andy Henry, and Richard Hancock also discussed the interchanges at US 70 and Lynn Road Extension (TIP #U-5720A), and US 70 and Angier Avenue (TIP #U-5720C).

Jay Heikes asked about the criteria for choosing the premium Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services. Andy Henry responded that main commuter corridors and demand were factors. Scott Whiteman asked why inner city transit projects have not been added in the Amendment. Aaron Cain stated that those projects are already in the MTP. Scott Whiteman and Aaron Cain discussed how the transit plans and the MTP impact submitting projects for SPOT 6. John Hodges-Copple stated that once a project is submitted for SPOT scoring, the MPO is not required to contribute points. John Hodges-Copple and Aaron Cain discussed how CAMPO and the DCHC MPO are similar and different in policies regarding fiscal constraints and requiring projects to be in the MTP before submitting them for SPOT scoring. Jay Heikes asked if it is possible to submit a premium bus service project along Holloway Street or Fayetteville Street. There was discussion about the scheduling of the SPOT 6 submittal process and the timeline of completion of the Orange County and Durham County Transit Plans. Aaron Cain added that historically there has not been a large sum of money given to transit projects, and that the N-S BRT is a priority. Aaron Cain also stated that there is a limited number of projects than can be submitted for SPOT 6.

John Hodges-Copple discussed transit projects that would be competitive at the regional tier. John Hodges-Copple stated that language in the previous MTP was not supportive of projects that could be submitted for SPOT that were not specifically listed in the MTP. John Hodges-Copple suggested that language regarding corridor transit services be revisited in the MTP. Aaron Cain responded that projects without major physical infrastructure needs, such as signal prioritization projects, can be more readily submitted for SPOT scoring.

Andy Henry stated that the schedule for the MTP is as follows: the MPO Board releases Amendment #2 and the public comment period begins on September 11; the MPO Board conducts a public hearing on October 9; and the MPO Board adopts Amendment #2 to the 2045 MTP at their November 13 meeting.

Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release Amendment #2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for public comment with the caveat that the language for multiuse paths be amended, which is to be determined by Andy Henry, Dale McKeel and Ellen Beckmann. Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Transportation Conformity Determination Report**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

**John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

Andy Henry stated that the Transportation Conformity Determination Report (CDR) demonstrates that certain pollutant emissions from the future transportation sector will not exceed a specified threshold. Andy Henry continued that this determination is done by analyzing the emission impacts of the MPO's 2045 MTP, which includes Amendment #2, and the FY 2000-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Andy Henry continued that although the Triangle region, which also includes Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and Burlington Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO), is designated as in "attainment" for major pollutants, the area is in a maintenance program to assure the continuation of that designation. John Hodges-Copple stated that along with CAMPO, BGMPO, the DCHC MPO might also be joined by a fourth acting body, the NCDOT, for the surrounding areas not incorporated in the above MPOs. Andy Henry added that the CDR calculate emissions by taking output data from the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) and input that data into an emissions model. Andy Henry noted that Felix Nwoko recently received a letter stating that Air Quality Conformity was achieved for changes to CAMPO's 2045 MTP and TIP. The DCHC MPO received a copy of the letter because we are in the same so-called air shed as CAMPO.

Andy Henry added that MPO staff recommends coordinating the CDR schedule with the related 2045 MTP and TIP processes. Andy Henry stated that the schedule for the CDR is as follows: the MPO Board releases the CDR and public comment period begins on September 11; the MPO Board conducts a public hearing on October 9; and the MPO Board adopts the CDR on November 13.

Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the Conformity Determination Report for public comment. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. Title VI Plan**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the MPO is required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Andy Henry continued that there are new requirements call for the development of a Title VI plan that demonstrates and documents our compliance with Title VI regulations, including Environmental Justice (EJ) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Andy Henry added that the DCHC MPO Title VI plan was developed using a standard template required by the North Carolina Civil Rights Office for use by all MPOs.

Andy Henry stated that the schedule for the Title VI Plan is that the MPO Board release Title VI Plan and public comment period begins on September 11, and the MPO Board then conducts a public hearing and adopts Title VI plan on October 9. John Hodges-Copple noted that Mo Devlin is no longer the Title VI Coordinator, and he suggested that the TC and MPO Board rosters be updated. Chair Nish Trivedi and Andy Henry discussed Triangle Area Rural Transportation Planning Organization (TARPO) and Burlington Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO) have already completed their Title VI documents. Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed how public outreach and complaints are handled. Andy Henry stated that the Public Participation Plan is informed by the Title VI Plan.



John Hodges-Copple recommend that the MPO Board release the plan for public comment.

Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Schedule and Grant Reporting Dates**

**Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Meg Scully stated that any subrecipient who receives funding through the MPO must submit a quarterly report in a timely manner. Meg Scully continued that there is an FY20 Unified Working Program Amendment (UPWP) schedule as well, and the City of Durham and Durham County have indicated that they will request amendments.

**REPORTS:**

**10. Reports from the LPA Staff**

**Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

There was not an additional report from the LPA Staff. .

**11. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

**Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

There was no additional report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair.

**12. NCDOT Reports**

Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5 stated that there was no additional report.

Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that the West Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road project (U-5847) began and physical construction is ongoing.

There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 8. Aaron Cain stated that, due to new NCDOT budget and travel restrictions, a representative from Division 8 will not attend either TC Meetings or MPO Meetings. Aaron Cain continued that they will continue to provide reports via the agenda attachments and they are available for contact.

Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, reported the updates from the NC Moves 2050 Plan. Julie Bogle stated that the *Drivers and Opportunities* fact sheet is available online, and the next

238 phase of the NC Moves 2050 Plan will include *Future Scenarios*, which will be based on *Drivers and*  
239 *Opportunities*.

240 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

241 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

242 **13. DAQ Review of Draft Conformity Analysis and Determination Report**

243 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

244 **14. America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA) of 2019 – Draft Summary**

245 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

246 Nish Trivedi introduced the informational items. There were no comments regarding any  
247 informational item. Aaron Cain stated that there will be a Streetlight Presentation at 11 a.m. in the  
248 Conference Room.

249 **ADJOURNMENT:**

250 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was  
251 adjourned at 10:51 a.m.