

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

9:00 AM

Committee Room 2nd Floor Durham City Hall

Regular Meeting

1. Roll Call

Quorum Count: 6 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.

Michael Parker made a motion to excuse the absences of Vernetta Alston, Nina Szlosberg-Landis, and Ellen Reckhow. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Present: 19 - Ellen Reckhow Go Triangle
Lydia Lavelle Town of Carrboro Alternate
John Sullivan Federal Highway Administration - Non Voting
Damon Seils Town Of Carrboro
Pam Hemminger Town Of Chapel Hill
Wendy Jacobs Durham County Commissioner
Michael Parker Town of Chapel Hill Alternate
Nina Szlosberg-Landis NCDOT Board
Charlie Reece City of Durham
Vernetta Alston City of Durham
Heidi Carter Durham County Alternate
Renee Price
Mike Fox
Jenn Weaver
Karen Howard
James Crawford
Steve Schewel
Mark Bell
Penny Rich

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

There was an Action Item added as 12a, *DCHC STIP Projects from SPOT 5*.

4. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public on any subject that was not on the agenda.

5. Directives to Staff

The Directives to staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

This was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

[19-100](#)

CONSENT AGENDA

6. June 12, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

[19-162](#)

There was no discussion about this item.

This Minutes was approved.

7. May 29, 2019 Joint DCHC MPO-CAMPO Board Meeting Minutes

[19-163](#)

There was no discussion about this item.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This Minutes was approved.

ACTION ITEMS

8. Durham County Transit Plan Update (10 mins)[19-160](#)**Pat Young, Durham City-County Planning Department****Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

John Hodges-Copple stated that the Durham County Transit Plan was influenced by the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project. John Hodges-Copple stated that certain projects will continue while the Transit Plan is being updated. John Hodges-Copple stated that the Durham City-County Planning Department will be the project manager and the convener for the Transit Plan, and the assistants will be the following five (5) agencies; Durham County, City of Durham, DCHC MPO, GoTriangle, and Triangle J Council of Governments (TJ COG).

John Hodges-Copple stated that the five agencies will be working on seven (7) goals for the Durham County Transit Plan: communicate relentlessly; revise governance agreements; prepare an existing conditions assessment and pipeline projects; engaging the community; develop a detailed scope; identify the roles, responsibilities and resources; and plan development. John Hodges-Copple stated that there will be a revised proposal of governance agreements by September 2019. John Hodges-Copple added that there will be an assessment of exiting conditions by October 2019 and a list of pipeline project by November 2019. John Hodges-Copple stated that the scope for the Transit Plan will be completed by November 2019. John Hodges-Copple highlighted three (3) important issues: attention to regional connections; meaningful participation by end users and diverse interests; and access to job centers and service to affordable housing communities.

Chair Damon Seils stated that the Durham County Transit Plan and the Orange County Transit Plan are owned jointly by the DCHC MPO and the GoTriangle, which is the regional transit authority. Chair Damon Seils also requested that the DCHC MPO Board be updated on the progress of the Transit Plans in future MPO Board meetings.

There was discussion about how the Staff Working Group (SWG) may change. John Hodges-Copple stated that the City of Durham may be added as a voting member. John Hodges-Copple added that there was discussion about having more than one approving entity within the SWG. Aaron Cain discussed the similarities and differences between Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) for the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the SWG for the DCHC MPO. Aaron Cain and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed that there are more jurisdictions represented within the TPAC due to the larger nature of CAMPO as well as there being community stakeholders within TPAC. Aaron Cain added that there is more staffing allocated for the TPAC. Michael Parker stated that the TPAC has a Master Participation Agreement. Renee Price added that the TPAC also highlights the concept of concurrence.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that the framework document that was presented to the MPO Board be distributed. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs added that clear definitions of roles is important for participation agreements. Michael Parker discussed the need for stakeholder participation, especially from large employers. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and John-Hodges Copple discussed how Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) 6 will impact the Transit Plan. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that Durham County will be adopting the Transit Plan, and that the community engagement group called Engage Durham will be compensating people for their participation.

Michael Parker and Patrick McDonough discussed the scope for the transit work that

needs to be completed following the discontinuation of the D-O LRT project. Patrick McDonough stated that the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Scoping Model will be used.

There was discussion about the progress of the Orange County Transit Plan. Pam Hemminger and Renee Price stated the importance of participation from jurisdictions and other stakeholders. Brian Litchfield stated that Travis Myren started contacting participants of the Orange County Transit Plan, and that work has begun for the Transit Plan.

This item was for informational purposes. There was no action required.

This Report was received and filed.

9. Amendment to the Orange County Transit Plan (5 mins)

[19-161](#)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) has requested an additional \$8M in dedicated transit revenue to be allocated to the 2017 Orange County Transit Plan, which has already allocated \$6.1 million to the Chapel Hill North-South Bus Rapid Transit (NSBRT) project. Aaron Cain added that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the GoTriangle Board of Trustees have already approved this measure.

Aaron Cain stated that Chapel Hill Transit is requesting that the Chair of the MPO Board sign a letter in support of the material change. Pam Hemminger requested that the language of the letter be amended to reflect that the entire MPO Board is supportive of the additional allocated funds to the NSBRT.

Michael Parker made a motion to approve and sign the amendment to the Orange County Transit Plan. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jenn Weaver made a motion for Chair Damon Seils to sign the attached letter with the discussed changes. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This Resolution was adopted.

10. Triangle Strategic Tolling Study - Final Report (20 minutes)[19-158](#)**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the final report of the Triangle Strategic Tolling Study provides a framework for the MPO to discuss and evaluate toll projects. Andy Henry stated that further equity studies were added to the Tolling Study per the request made by the MPO Board. Andy Henry also stated that the Tolling Study now includes studies of other tolling projects in the United States and how they have addressed impacts on low-income residents. Andy Henry added that the following steps would include a 30-day public comment period, a public hearing, and MPO Board approval. Michael Parker, Andy Henry, and David Keilson discussed the integration of toll lanes and managed motorways.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs made a motion to release the Triangle Strategic Tolling Study for a 30-day public comment period. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This Report was referred to the Technical Committee due back on 9/25/2019

11. Amendment #14 to the FY2018-2027 TIP (5 minutes)[19-164](#)**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #14 transfers funding for three City of Durham CMAQ projects. Aaron Cain stated that FY19 funds from the Downtown Durham Wayfinding project (C-5605H) would be moved to Durham Bike Lanes (C-5605E), and Durham Bike Boulevards (C-5605I). Aaron Cain reported that the purpose for this movement of funds is due to cost overruns on all projects and the uncertainty that C-5605H will be able to obligate its funds by the September 30, 2019 rescission deadline. Aaron Cain stated that additional funds would be programmed to C-5605H in FY20.

Aaron Cain and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed that there were projects that were delayed in order to avoid CMAQ rescission. Aaron Cain and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed that both the Durham Bike Share project and the Downtown Loop Separated Bike Lane project were discontinued in fall 2018 due to reasons unrelated to the CMAQ rescission. Aaron Cain stated that there is a meeting on September 6 at the Research Triangle Park (RTP) Headquarters to discuss regional transit along with other topics.

Renee Price made a motion to approve Amendment #14 to the FY2018-2027 TIP. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This Resolution was endorsed.

12. SPOT 6 Update (10 minutes)[19-123](#)**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that the deadline for Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) 6 will now be in May 2020 instead of December 2019. Aaron Cain encouraged the MPO Board to provide their feedback for SPOT 6 projects. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed that the Technical Committee (TC) and the jurisdictions have reviewed list of SPOT 6 projects.

This item was for informational purposes. There was no action required.

This Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

Minutes Recording Document[19-110](#)**12a. DCHC STIP Projects from SPOT 5****Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that there were upcoming projects impacted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) budget issues. Aaron Cain stated that the bike/ped project along Fordham Boulevard will begin four years earlier than projected and is now a committed project. Aaron Cain stated that the project in Carrboro and James Street to Anderson Park will also begin construction earlier than planned, and is also now a committed project in the STIP.

Aaron Cain reported that there were several projects that were delayed due to the NCDOT budget issue, including: NC 98 from Junction Boulevard (U6120); auxiliary lanes along NC 147 (U-5937); the US 15-501 Garrett Road Interchange (W-5705C); US 70 upgrades in both Wake and Durham; Roxboro Road, Latta Road, and Infinity Road intersection (U-5516); and Durham Freeway Downtown Improvements (C-5605H); and Durham Freeway widening.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed making changes, such as adding multiuse paths, to the projects that are required to be rescored. There was also discussion about projects that are in the 15-501 corridor that were impacted from the discontinuation of the D-O LRT. There was further discussion that the 90% designs for the US 15-501 and Garrett Road interchange addressed safety concerns. Chair Damon Seils requested that an update for the 15-501 Corridor Study be included in future DCHC MPO meetings.

Aaron Cain stated that, due to the delays, further exploration of creating transit corridors can occur, including accommodations made from the anticipated Morrisville-Garner Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to Durham. Aaron Cain also stated that the MPO Board will be asked to approve the TIP in the fall of 2019, and then the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will ensure that the TIP and STIP match in the first four years. Aaron Cain continued that the next TIP and STIP will go into effect in March 2020.

This item was for informational purposes. There was no action required.

This Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

REPORTS:**13. Report from the Board Chair**[19-101](#)**Damon Seils, Board Chair**

Chair Damon Seils stated he attended the North Carolina Board of Transportation meeting, and there was a presentation by Katharine Eggleston from GoTriangle who discussed updating the County Wide Transit Plans. Chair Damon Seils reported that there was discussion about the importance of prioritizing transit and alternative modes of transportation in the Triangle region.

This Report was referred.to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

14. Report from the Technical Committee Chair[19-102](#)**Nishith Trivedi,TC Chair**

Nish Trivedi thanked the Township of Carrboro for the Bike Panel Update and their involvement with regional connectivity. Nish Trivedi stated that the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO) is undertaking their Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update, and they are seeking public comments from the public. Nish Trivedi stated that Wannetta Mallette from VHB can be contacted for input to the BGMPO's MTP.

This Report was referred.to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

15. Report from LPA Staff[19-103](#)**Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager**

Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO has executed on-call agreements with 20 firms; most of which have been prequalified with NCDOT to expedite the planning project delivery. Aaron Cain added that contracts extend through spring 2022, and are available for all jurisdictions within the MPO that are undertaking planning projects with federal funds.

This Report was referred.to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

16. NCDOT Report[19-104](#)**Joey Hopkins (David Keilson/Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT****Mike Mills (Pat Wilson), Division 7 - NCDOT****Brandon Jones (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT****Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT****John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

Richard Hancock, Division 5, reported that the roundabout at Hope Valley Road and University Drive (U-5745) is planned to be reopened by November 2019. Richard Hancock stated that Old Durham Road (UB4707-A) is delayed due to utility issues. Richard Hancock stated that the East End Connector project (U-0071) is planned to be opening in spring 2020. Richard Hancock added that northbound traffic on NC 147 is planned to be shifted on 16 August 2019. There was discussion about the NCDOT's funding shortage due to excessive storm cleanup expenditures and Map Act settlement payments.

Pat Wilson, Division 7, reported that the Mount Carmel Church Road and Bennett Road Roundabout project (U-5854) could be placed in the final traffic pattern by the end of 2019. Pat Wilson stated that the roundabout at Greensboro Street and Estes Drive (U5846) has been successfully awarded and let, and work has begun on utilities. Chair Damon Seils and Pat Wilson stated that pedestrian access would be maintained throughout the construction period. Lydia Lavelle and Pat Wilson discussed making construction information more accessible to the public. Pat Wilson stated that the intersection improvements at West Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road (U-5847) began in June 2019 and progress has been made with the signal work. Pat Wilson added that coordination has been ongoing with the impacted businesses in order that they remain open during construction. Chair Damon Seils stated that he will send related information to Pat Wilson about bicycle safety issues along South Estes Drive in Chapel Hill.

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

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch, stated that there are new driver and opportunity fact sheets that are available for the NC Moves 2050 Plan. Julie Bogle continued that the next phase will be a future scenario based on the findings from the previous phase. Julie Bogle reported that the 2018 Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts (AADT) have currently become available. There was discussion that the available traffic volume maps and Geographic Information System (GIS) data for the state maintained roads in the AADT depend on the area. Julie Bogle continued that the North Carolina Board of Transportation adopted a Complete Streets Resolution. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs requested to be sent the updated policy as well as the information pertaining to the NC Moves 2050 Plan. There was discussion about whether or not the multiuse paths were included in the Complete Streets Resolution.

This Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**17. Recent News Articles and Updates**[19-105](#)

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

This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 9/11/2019

Adjourn

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Next meeting: September 11, 9 a.m., Committee Room

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings: None