

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**9 October 2019**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on October 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Damon Seils (Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Wendy Jacobs (Vice Chair)	Durham County
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Jenn Weaver (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Pam Hemminger (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Mark Marcoplos (Alternate)	GoTriangle
David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
Pat Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Julie Bogle	NCDOT, Transportation Planning Division
Nish Trivedi	Orange County
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Bill Judge	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Joe Geigle	FHWA
Kathy Claspell	Sierra Club
Michael Waldroup	Resident

Quorum Count: 7 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.

Charlie Reece made a motion to excuse the absences of Nina Szlosberg-Landis, Penny Rich, and Michael Parker. Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Damon Seils recommended that, in the future, MPO Board meetings be scheduled on days that are not in conflict with religious holidays.

**PRELIMINARIES:**

**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 were no adjustments to the agenda. Aaron Cain noted that he and Felix Nwoko would need to leave early.

**4. Public Comments**

Michael Waldroup, resident, requested that the MPO Board consider turning Southwest Durham Drive in Patterson Place into a complete street. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed that the aforementioned part of Southwest Durham Drive is designated as a state-owned road. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed that conversations would also need to be engaged with City of Durham and NCDOT staff regarding acceptable street cross-sections. Aaron Cain stated that when Hannah Cockburn, NCDOT, arrives at the DCHC MPO Board meeting on November 13, she will speak to

NCDOT's new complete street policy. Michael Waldroup agreed to speak with City of Durham staff. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, Chair Damon Seils, and Aaron Cain discussed the process of changing an established street into a complete street.

## **5. Directives to Staff**

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

## **6. September 11, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

Lydia Lavelle stated that, in the minutes, she is misquoted in the number of cases before the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) concerning LGBTQ rights.

## **7. Authorize Durham City Manager on behalf of DCHC MPO to enter into agreement with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the Metropolitan Planning Program (Section 5303) Grant for FY20** **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

There was no discussion about Item #7, *Authorize Durham City Manager...*

Renee Price made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

## **8. NC 54 West Corridor Study - Phase Two** **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that Phase Two of the NC 54 West Corridor Study was presented at the MPO Board meeting in September 2019. Aaron Cain stated that staff requested to the MPO Board that both phases of the NC 54 West Corridor Study be released for public comment. The public comment presentation schedule is as follows: Carrboro Board of Aldermen on October 15; public meeting at Carrboro Town Hall on October 24; Chapel Hill Town Council on October 30; Orange County Board of Commissioners on November 7; and MPO Board Public Hearing on November 13.

96 Renee Price requested that both phases of the NC 54 Corridor Study be accessible on the Carrboro,  
97 Chapel Hill, and Orange County websites in addition to the MPO website.

98 Renee Price made a motion to release the NC 54 West Corridor Study for public comment.

99 Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

100 **9. Amendment #15 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

101 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

102 Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #15 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement  
103 Program (TIP) includes several new projects from NCDOT to address highway safety and maintenance  
104 both at the division and statewide levels. Aaron Cain added that there is also a scheduled adjustment  
105 to a bridge project in Durham County and a new statewide rails-to-trails project. Aaron Cain  
106 continued that there are no further modifications in this amendment requested by DCHC  
107 jurisdictions. There was discussion about local projects that could qualify for rails-to-trails projects in  
108 the future.

109 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs made a motion to approve Amendment #15 to the FY2018-2027  
110 TIP. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

111 **10. Triangle Strategic Tolling Study - Final Report - Public Hearing**

112 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

113 Andy Henry stated that the Triangle Strategic Tolling Study was released in August 2019, and  
114 there was a public hearing at the MPO Board meeting on September 11. Andy Henry continued that  
115 the MPO Board requested that a statement of principles be drafted and included within the Tolling  
116 Study, and that he and Chair Damon Seils collaborated to develop the statement of principles. Andy  
117 Henry reviewed the statement of principles with the MPO Board Members.

118 Chair Damon Seils, Andy Henry, and Ellen Reckhow discussed that the Capital Area  
119 Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) does not have an identical statement of principles  
120 included in their identical Tolling Study, which has been already approved. MPO Board Members

asked that the statement of principles be discussed with CAMPO leaders at the next Joint Executive MPO Board meeting so that it might be an agenda item for the next Joint DCHC MPO and CAMPO Board meeting. There was discussion about the possibility of converting general purpose lanes to toll lanes but the legality and feasibility were deemed questionable.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the final report for the Triangle Strategic Tolling Study with the inclusion of the statement of principles. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan -- Amendment #2 (MTP)**  
**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released Amendment #2 of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for public comment on September 11. Andy Henry continued that the MPO Board is scheduled to vote on the amendment at their meeting on November 13. Andy Henry stated that there were roadway projects added to the MTP for Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) evaluations, and there were premium transit services added in corridors that were left without transit by the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT). Andy Henry stated that federal agencies have not yet responded with review comments to the 2045 MTP.

Chair Damon Seils opened the public hearing for Amendment #2 of the MTP. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that North Carolina Central University (NCCU) should be added to transit corridors that were to be served by the D-O LRT and are not currently in the MTP. Cathy Klaspell stated that there is an issue with damage to the ecosystems of New Hope Creek and Dry Creek. Cathy Klaspell stated that a resolution would be forthcoming. Ellen Reckhow, Chair Damon Seils, and Andy Henry discussed environmental issues in the MTP.

Lydia Lavelle, Mark Marcoplos, and Ellen Reckhow discussed policy and procedure of GoTriangle changing transit routes, particularly in the Eubanks Road area. Ellen Reckhow responded

that changes to GoTriangle routes are based on data collection and public input. Ellen Reckhow continued that she and Mark Marcoplos will follow up with GoTriangle to review these processes and procedures. Pam Hemminger discussed adding service to Chatham County due to population increases, and other issues related to changes to routes that have left residents without reliable parking. Chair Damon Seils closed the public hearing for Amendment #2 to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

There was no additional action required by the MPO Board.

**12. Transportation Conformity Determination Report**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

**John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released the Transportation Conformity Determination Report (CDR) on September 11. Andy Henry stated that the CDR demonstrates that certain pollutant emissions from the future transportation sector will not exceed a specified threshold by analyzing the emission impacts of the MPO's 2045 MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan). Chair Damon Seils opened and then closed the public hearing without there being any public comment. Andy Henry stated that he will return to the MPO Board meeting on November 13 for an adoption vote.

There was no additional action required by the MPO Board.

**13. Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funding Distribution for FY21**

**Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Meg Scully stated that, in 2015, the MPO Board approved the formula and policy to distribute Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds to subrecipients. Meg Scully continued that each year the formula is updated with new transit data, which determines the transit distribution. Meg Scully added that the approval of this allocation will commence the FY21 Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP)

development as agencies may choose to use the allocation for planning purposes, and will be required to program funds in the FY21 UPWP. Meg Scully continued that Aaron Cain will do a call for other projects in 2019.

Renee Price and Meg Scully discussed that local discretionary distribution is calculated per capita, however, the numbers may change in years following the 2020 census. Meg Scully added that the UPWP will be reviewed by the Technical Committee (TC) and then will be scheduled to be brought to the MPO Board for review in January 2020.

Renee Price made a motion to approve the FY21 distribution of STBG-DA and TAP funds. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **14. Title VI Plan**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the MPO staff used a template to create the Title VI Plan. Andy Henry stated that a Title VI liaison will be appointed, and MPO staff will also update the Public Participation Plan, the Limited English Proficiency Plan, and Environmental Justice at a later date. Andy Henry stated that at the September 11 MPO Board meeting, a Board Member requested that the MPO Board be notified if and when a complaint is received under the Title VI Plan. Andy Henry stated that the appropriate changes have been made in response from that request.

Chair Damon Seils and Lydia Lavelle discussed potentially adding language to the Title VI Plan pending court cases currently being reviewed by the SCOTUS that could influence the scope of Title VI. Chair Damon Seils opened and then closed the public hearing without there being any comment from the public. Nish Trivedi mentioned that Orange County will have three Title VI Plans within its jurisdiction.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed language access to reports and documents. Andy Henry responded that there are notices stating that information can also be transcribed into Spanish. Vice

Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested that the MPO Board consider expanding language access in order to create a more diverse coalition in the public participation process. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Reckhow discussed that the Untokening Conference examined equity issues for minorities and disadvantaged communities as it related to transportation and transportation infrastructure.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to adopt the Title VI Plan. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **15. Report from the MPO Board Chair** **Damon Seils, Board Chair**

Chair Damon Seils stated that he will be appointing a nominating committee for the MPO Board Chair and Vice Chair at the MPO Board meeting on November 13.

#### **16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair** **Nish Trivedi, TC Chair**

Nish Trivedi stated that there was nothing further to report.

#### **17. Report from LPA Staff** **Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that DCHC MPO officer election will occur in December 2019, and a nomination committee will be established at the November MPO Board meeting. Aaron Cain noted that Chair Damon Seils is not eligible to run for another term, and the new Chair must come from either Durham or Chatham County, and the Vice Chair must come from a different county than the Chair.

Aaron Cain stated that the Durham Transit Team meets on a biweekly basis, and are currently discussing project scope and finalizing existing conditions of pipeline projects. Aaron Cain listed that the Durham Transit Team will present to the following; Durham County Commissioners on November 4; DCHC MPO Board November 13; Durham City Council December 5; and the GoTriangle Board on November 20. Aaron Cain added that the Durham Transit Team is also coordinating efforts for public



223 outreach, which will include gathering comments from residents about issues outside of the scope of  
224 the Durham Transit Plan. Aaron Cain added that Nish Trivedi has continued to coordinate with the  
225 Orange County Transit Team to begin to establish a Request for Information (RFI) to add a consultant  
226 to the project.

227 Andy Henry stated that there is a public workshop for US 15-501 Corridor Study (Reimagining  
228 15-501) on October 17 at the Chapel Hill Bible Church. Andy Henry stated that he is scheduled to  
229 review the conceptual plans on October 10, and will share the plans via the MPO website. Nish Trivedi  
230 stated that the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) has their Regional Summit in Pittsboro on  
231 October 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Brian Rhodes stated that the dates and times of upcoming events are  
232 located on the final page of the agenda packet.

#### 233 **16. NCDOT Report**

234 Richard Hancock, Division 5, stated that the East End Connector project (U-0071) is continuing  
235 to progress and is scheduled to be completed in spring 2020. Richard Hancock stated that regular  
236 traffic patterns will return for the roundabout at University Drive and Hope Valley Road (U-5745)  
237 project. Richard Hancock stated that there are utility issues at the Old Durham Road bike/ped project  
238 (U4707-A), which might cause delays. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that Shelby Scales, Director of  
239 the Offices of Civil Rights for NCDOT, received the Agency Diversity Advocate of the Year award.

240 Pat Wilson, Division 7, stated that Tina Moon shared with him a concern about a turning radius  
241 issue for the Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road project (U-5847). Patrick Wilson stated that audible  
242 pedestrian signal heads will also be added to the project. Chair Damon Seils and Pat Wilson discussed  
243 that crosswalk signals will be added all around the intersection. Pam Hemminger added that greenery  
244 will be added to the pedestrian refuge area.

Pam Hemminger stated that there is a safety issue with lighting and notification for the Mount Carmel Church Road and Bennet Road roundabout project (U-5854) during construction. Pat Wilson replied that he will address the issue with the contractor.

There was no additional report from Division 8.

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

There was no report from John Grant, Traffic Operations.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

10:16 a.m.