

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

11 December 2019

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on December 11, 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
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Jenn Weaver (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Penny Rich (Alternate)	Orange County
David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
Pat Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPD
Nish Trivedi	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Jomar Pastorelle	Town of Chapel Hill
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
Hank Graham	Research Triangle Park
Sean Egan	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
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
John Tallmadge	Bike Durham
K. Claspell	Sierra

47
48 Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members
49

50
51 Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The
52 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are
53 indicated above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being
54 circulated. Chair Damon Seils announced that Pam Hemminger will now be the MPO Board Member for
55 Chapel Hill and Michael Parker will be the Alternate.

56 Renee Price made a motion to excuse the absences of Vernetta Alston and Nina Szlosberg-
57 Landis from the December 11, 2019 DCHC MPO Board Meeting. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion.
58 The motion passed unanimously.

59 **PRELIMINARIES:**

60 **2. Ethics Reminder**

61 Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
62 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
63 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
64 the MPO Board Members.

65 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

66 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

67 **4. Public Comments**

68 There were no comments from the public.

69 **5. Directives to Staff**

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

71 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

72 **6. November 13, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

Jenn Weaver made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO Board released the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for a 21-day public comment period on November 13, 2019. Aaron Cain added that the TIP and the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) must match for the first four years of the programs for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concurrence. Chair Damon Seils opened the public hearing. John Tallmadge stated that he was speaking on behalf of Bike Durham, and the language in the TIP be changed from *bike lanes* to *protected bike lanes*. John Tallmadge added that the program projects add more Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) because of the emphasis on expanded highways. John Tallmadge requested that the MPO communicate to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the municipalities that there is an expectation that any Spot Safety improvements are done with prioritization for improving the safety of people who are walking and biking, who are the most vulnerable. John Tallmadge requested that equity analysis must be increased for planning documents.

Pam Hemminger stated that strategic groups, such as Bike Durham, are useful for gathering information about strategic areas for safety improvements. Pam Hemminger added that other municipalities across the state are struggling to increase funding for alternative modes. Ellen Reckhow added that a workshop promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety might be useful. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that MPO staff produce recommendations for safety improvements that can be implemented immediately. Aaron Cain stated that the language of *bicycle facilities* is intentionally vague to allow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to be flexible enough to allow the appropriate level of pedestrian facilities based on right-of-way and other

construction constraints. Chair Damon Seils stated that including equity as a more formal part of project analysis moving forward would be useful. There was discussion about including analysis of mode splits in program documents. Ellen Reckhow recommended that mode splits targets be included in the CTP, and that mode split targets be included in the core values of the DCHC MPO. There was discussion about NCDOT's normalization process, which determines the percentage of funding that goes to highway and non-highway projects. There was discussion about collaborating with other partners, including other MPOs, in order to help achieve the goal of decreasing VMT by promoting alternative modes across the state and within NCDOT.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs made a motion to adopt the FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. 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) at their September meeting and conducted a public hearing at their October meeting. Chair Damon Seils and Andy Henry discussed that the MPO has not received any public comments concerning the CDR. Andy Henry explained that the report 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 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Andy Henry stated that the recent MTP amendment and TIP adoption necessitates this update to the CDR. Andy Henry stated that North Carolina Central University (NCCU) is now added as part of one of the high capacity transit corridors as requested by the MPO Board. Renee Price stated that there is a typo in Appendix A. Andy Henry stated that he will correct the error.

Jenn Weaver made a motion to adopt the resolution based on the Transportation Conformity Determination Report as amended. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Mobility and Safety Operations and Funding
John Grant, NCDOT Regional Traffic Engineer

John Grant stated that he is the Regional Traffic Engineer at the Mobility and Safety Division of NCDOT for the Capital Region, which covers Divisions 5 and 8. John Grant stated that his division is responsible for investigating local crash issues, determining counter measures to implement, and seeking funding. John Grant stated that the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) determines locations where crash issues are being identified. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and John Grant discussed that crash issues include pedestrian crash issues as well.

John Grant identified that the statewide funding sources include: \$65M for HSIP; \$12.1M for SPOT Safety; and \$16M for SPOT Mobility. John Grant discussed systemic projects, which includes topics such as markings on secondary roads and guard rails. John Grant also stated that his office also deals with TIP projects and ordinances.

Chair Damon Seils and John Grant discussed that the Mobility and Safety Division often consults and works with local jurisdictions. John Grant stated that projects are chosen based on a high cost benefit analysis that includes a Crash Reduction Factor (CRF) as part of its formula. There was discussion about the limited amount of funding for each of the funding sources, including a cap for individual projects. John Grant continued that funding sources can be combined, and companion funding can also be used. John Grant demonstrated individual projects for each of the HSIP, SPOT Safety, and SPOT Mobility categories, respectively. Chair Damon Seils asked if the Mobility and Safety Division performs a follow-up analysis. John Grant responded that there is typically an analysis performed three years after project completion to determine if the solution was successful.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs requested to discuss further funding for these projects at the Joint CAMPO Meeting in January 2020. Project caps for individual projects were discussed. Heidi Carter and Chair Damon Seils asked if SPOT Mobility funding could be used for alternative modes of transportation, such as bike or transit. John Grant responded that SPOT Mobility is new and only measures vehicle traffic. Chair Damon Seils asked if availability of funding for safety projects could be advanced. John Grant responded that the Safety and Mobility Division does not have the authority for that action.

This item was for informational purposes only, and no further action was required.

10. Durham and Orange County FY19 Annual and FY20 Q1 Transit Tax Reports

Jennifer Hayden, GoTriangle

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that Durham and Orange County FY19 Annual Transit Tax Reports will be given, but FY20 Q1 reports are not yet ready. It was discussed that FY19 includes July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Aaron Cain stated that 67,528 new bus service hours have been created in Orange County since the inception of the Orange County Transit Tax in 2013. Aaron Cain also stated that the Hillsborough Train Station environmental document has been completed. Aaron Cain also stated that design contracts for the Hillsborough park-and-ride have been completed and several bus stops in Orange County have also been completed.

Jennifer Hayden stated that for FY19, the half-cent sales tax collected \$7.9M, when combined with the other tax revenues the total was \$14.7M for Orange County. Jennifer Hayden added that \$4.8M of Orange County Transit Tax reserves was included in the final amount. The projected numbers of the transit taxes were requested by MPO Board Members. Jennifer Hayden detailed the amount of wind down costs for FY19 and explained that further wind down costs would occur in FY20 for both Durham and Orange County.

Aaron Cain stated that 114,437 new bus hours, 36,000 new bus trips, and six buses were purchased using Durham County Transit Tax funds since 2013. Aaron Cain added that capital projects included bus stops, bus benches, Simme-Seats, standalone bus shelters, bike racks, and new bus stop signage. Aaron Cain displayed the geographic dispersal of the bus stops throughout Durham and Orange counties. Jennifer Hayden stated that \$29.5M was collected through the half-cent sales tax, when combined with other tax revenue, the total was \$53M for Durham County. Jennifer Hayden stated that \$18M from the Durham County Transit Tax reserves was included in the total and used for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DOLRT) wind down costs.

Jennifer Hayden explained the breakdown of transit spending in Durham County. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that a breakdown of transit expenditures for FY19 be included in the Annual Transit Tax Report. Heidi Carter stated that residents will require more easily understood information regarding DOLRT wind down costs compared to other transit costs. There was discussion about adding further information to the Annual Transit Tax Report to more easily convey to residents information about wind downs costs. There was discussion about the Annual Transit Tax Report being presented to the GoTriangle Board.

This item was for informational purposes only, and no further action was required.

11. NC Moves 2050 Update
Julie Bogle, NCDOT

Julie Bogle presented a video regarding the update of NC Moves 2050 Plan. The video presented information on the development of the plan, reviewed future needs, and discussed public engagement. The video listed more information that can be found on ncmoves.gov. Julie Bogle distributed the third survey from the NC Moves 2050 to the MPO Board. Julie Bogle stated that the poster contest's theme is *Leaping into the Future*.

Chair Damon Seils asked about how the NC Moves 2050 Plan will relate to the priorities of the various MPOs throughout North Carolina and if allocation of funding will be impacted. Ellen

Reckhow discussed North Carolina establishing goals for mode split in order to measure progress. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if different futures will be combined and how the overall plan will be implemented. Julie Bogle responded to all of the MPO Board Members that she will refer to her team at NC 2050 Moves and communicate the responses. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed that information for the NC 2050 Moves was distributed through local jurisdictions.

This item was for informational purposes only, and no further action was required.

12. Triangle Region TDM Plan and Goals
Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

Dale McKeel stated that he previously recommended to the MPO Board that they adopt the Triangle Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan and Goals during the current meeting, however, he is currently recommending that the MPO Board vote be delayed to its meeting in February in order to adequately address residents' comments to the TDM Plan.

John Tallmadge stated that, speaking on behalf of Bike Durham, he supports the following goals: (1) refine and enhance evaluation methods; (2) alignment of funding; (3) expand programming program marketing and outreach; (4) innovation; and (5) reevaluation to implement of the integration of TDM into policy. John Tallmadge explained that that marketing outreach ought to target communities that are most often transit dependent, such as low-income residents, people of color, and persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP). John Tallmadge recommended that Bike Durham and other nonprofit advocacy groups be included in further TDM discussions.

Ellen Reckhow recommended that setting targets for the TDM Plan, and that the TDM Plan be more proactive. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs recommended that climate change be mentioned in the TDM Plan. Chair Damon Seils discussed that further comments from the MPO Board be sent to Dale McKeel following the MPO Board meeting. Pam Hemminger added that Chapel Hill received a national TDM award in 2019.

There was no further action for this item. This item is scheduled to be voted on in February 2020.

13. FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1
Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies how the MPO uses federal funding for regional planning purposes. Meg Scully continued that the first amendment for the FY20 addresses changes to the UPWP including; Hillsborough adding funding for a planning study; the City of Durham deobligating funding; and Durham County is reallocating funding among tasks.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Election of Officers for the DCHC MPO Board
Damon Seils, Chair
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Chair Damon Seils stated that he appointed a nominating committee of Karen Howard, Renee Price, and Charlie Reece to nominate a new Chair and Vice Chair of the MPO Board for 2020 to satisfy the bylaws. Renee Price stated that the nominating committee selected Wendy Jacobs for Chair and Jenn Weaver for Vice Chair.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the recommendation that Wendy Jacobs be appointed Chair of the MPO Board and Jenn Weaver be appointed Vice Chair. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

15. Report from the MPO Board Chair
Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair

Newly elected Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that there were no further updates.

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

Nish Trivedi stated that there were no further updates.

17. Report from LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that there were no further updates.

18. NCDOT Report

David Keilson, Division 5, stated that there is a water leak in Alston Avenue. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked for further information. David Keilson responded that information is forthcoming. David Keilson stated that there are ongoing lane closures on NC 147. David Keilson stated that the plans to close Liberty Street will be delayed until 2020. David Keilson stated that the Old Chapel Hill-Old Durham Road project is delayed due to utility issues.

Pat Wilson, Division 7, stated that there was no further report. Pam Hemminger asked when the restriping of the West End of Franklin Street is scheduled. Pat Wilson responded that the restriping is scheduled to begin in spring 2020. Pam Hemminger and Pat Wilson discussed the ongoing effort for Chapel Hill to send necessary information to Division 7 concerning the restriping effort.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that the deadline for submitting projects for the Mobi Awards is December 20, 2019. Karen Howard and Bryan Kluchar discussed plans for traffic studies near the new Chatham Grove Elementary School. There was a discussion about a traffic safety meeting on January 6, 2020 in Fearington at 7 a.m.

There was no further report from the Transportation Planning Division.

There was no further report from Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

20. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

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

ADJOURNMENT:

272 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
273 11:05 a.m.