

1 **DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING**
 2 **ORGANIZATION**

3
 4 **Board Meeting**

5
 6 **August 12, 2020**

7
 8 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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 10 The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical
 11 Committee met on August 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. through a Zoom © teleconferencing
 12 platform due to the COV-19 pandemic and the limited access to the City Hall of
 13 Durham. The following people were in attendance:
 14

15 Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
16 Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
17 Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
18 Steve Schewel (Member)	City of Durham
19 Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
20 Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
21 Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
22 Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
23 Michael Fox (Member)	NC Board of Transportation
24 Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
25 Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
26 Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
27	
28 Meg Scully	GoTriangle
29 Chuck Lattuca	GoTriangle
30 Taruna Tayal	VHB
31 Roberta Fox	Catalyst Design
32 Scott Thomas	Resident
33 Katherine Eggleston	GoTriangle
34 Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
35 Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
36 Kumar Neppali	Town of Chapel Hill
37 Theo Letman	Orange Public Transportation
38 Matthew Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit
39 John Tallmadge	BikeDurham
40 Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham Transportation

41	Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham Transportation
42	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
43	Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
44	Brooke Ganser	Durham City-County Planning
45	Mary Kate Morookian	Kimley-Horn
46	Margaret Scully	GoTriangle
47	Caroline Dwyer	Renaissance Planning Group
48	Hank Graham	Research Triangle Foundation
49	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
50	Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
51	John Hodges-Copple	TJCOG
52	Jomar Pastorelle	Town of Chapel Hill
53	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
54	Heidi Perry	Resident
55	John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Operations
56	Joseph Giegler	Federal Highway Administration
57	Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD
58	Michael Page	North Carolina Central University
59	Sean Egan	City of Durham
60	Joe Milazzo	RTA
61	Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
62	Tasha Johnson	City of Durham Public Works
63	Zachary Hallock	Town of Carrboro
64	Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 5
65	Don Bryson	VHB
66	Jennifer Green	GoTriangle
67	Brian Litchfield	Chapel Hill Transit
68		
69	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
70	Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
71	Joelle Davis Carter	DCHC MPO
72	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
73	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
74	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
75	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
76	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
77	Jaehoon Kim	DCHC MPO
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79	<u>Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members</u>	
80		

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82
83 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was
84 performed by Filmon Fishastion. It was noted that Lydia Lavelle and Vice Chair Jenn
85 Weaver would not be in attendance and there would need to be a vote to excuse their
86 absences (Vice Chair Jenn Weaver later arrived at the meeting). Next, Chair Wendy
87 Jacobs called for a motion to excuse those members that would be absent from the
88 meeting. Pam Hemminger made a motion to grant an excused absence to Lydia Lavelle
89 and Vice Chair Jenn Weaver. The motion was seconded by Michael Parker. The motion
90 passed unanimously.

91 **PRELIMINARIES:**

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93 Chair Wendy Jacobs acknowledged that Michael Parker would serve as the
94 representative for GoTriangle and Amy Ryan would serve as the alternate for the
95 Chapel Hill Town Council. Joelle Davis Carter was also introduced to the Board as the
96 new minutes transcriber.

97
98 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

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100 Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if there were adjustments to the agenda. There were
101 no adjustments to the August 12, 2020, agenda.

102 **3. Public Comments**

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104 Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if there were any individuals signed up for public
105 comments. Aaron Cain stated that there were no members of the community signed up
106 to speak.

107 **4. Directives to Staff**

108 Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that the directives to staff were in the agenda packet.

109 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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111 **5. Approval of June 10, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

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113 Chair Wendy Jacobs indicated that minutes from the June 10, 2020, needed
114 approval. Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the June minutes. Renee Price
115 seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

116 **ACTION ITEMS:**

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118 **6. 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives**

119 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

120

121 Andy Henry provided an update and overview of the 2050 Metropolitan
122 Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. The action item he requested from the
123 MPO Board members was to hold a public hearing for the 2050 MTP goals and
124 objectives, discuss the goals and objectives, and adopt them in September. Some of
125 the key highlights Andy Henry emphasized were around 1) the development of the
126 survey through MetroQuest and how the survey was distributed; 2) partnerships with
127 organizations like the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) to
128 increase participation; 3) demographic information about the participants (e.g. race,
129 age, gender and household income; and 4) strategies to enhance the survey and obtain
130 more participation from diverse communities.

131 There was conversation about strategies used to distribute the survey in diverse
132 and low-income communities. Andy Henry explained that the subcommittee wanted
133 higher numbers from these communities. By partnering with organizations such as

134 CAMPO and ENGAGEDurham, overall survey numbers increased from approximately
135 412 to 1,400 in a short period of time.

136 Damon Seils made comments about measures of success in getting meaningful
137 results from all communities. He as well as other Board members stressed the
138 importance of being more intentional in survey recruitment efforts and ensuring the
139 survey design (e.g. questions, the wording of the goals and objectives) is the most
140 effective in resonating with diverse populations. The Board also acknowledged that
141 personal interactions are a better way of obtaining this information versus online
142 mediums but noted that COVID-19 has significantly impacted the ability to coordinate
143 high levels of engagement with community members in public forums.

144 Following discussion and comments, Chair Wendy Jacobs opened the public
145 hearing for the 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives.

146 Heidi Perry and John Tallmadge signed up to speak during the public hearing
147 regarding the 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives and the survey. Both speakers
148 applauded the committee's work on facilitating this process, developing the survey, and
149 being allowed to share some of their concerns and perspectives.

150 Heidi Perry drew attention to areas of the survey where improvements could be
151 made. In general, she noted that the individuals who probably utilize transit the most
152 would not take it due to the way some of the goals and objectives are framed. Other
153 issues Heidi Perry highlighted included 1) being able to take the survey multiple times
154 which could cause bias with the data collection, 2) zip codes were optional on the
155 survey which may not provide critical information for map development, 3) the lack of
156 representation of community members who may need public transit and input may not

157 be heard due to low response rates from specific communities, and 4) the need for
158 more questions focused on how people get places instead of a focus on public meetings
159 with maps that may be overwhelming.

160 John Tallmadge used a metaphor of a “big ship” and pressing hard on the tiller to
161 go a different direction with public transit in the region. John Tallmadge framed his
162 comments on disparities of access, safety, and emissions. He pointed to the goals of
163 equity of access and how they do not address the negative disproportionate impacts
164 and outcomes for people of color (e.g. the need for public transit for low-income
165 individuals needing access to jobs and shopping). A final point made by John
166 Tallmadge was about Vision Zero. He emphasized the objective should be zero deaths
167 and serious injuries on our streets and roadways by 2050.

168 Chair Wendy Jacobs and several other Board members thanked Heidi Perry and
169 John Tallmadge for their thoughtful and targeted comments. Chair Wendy Jacobs
170 closed the public hearing. Comments from Heidi Perry and John Tallmadge sparked
171 several additional questions with recommendations to the survey and specific strategies
172 for changes. Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the Board would expect changes to the
173 goals and objectives based on the comments heard during the public hearing.

174 **7. Public Engagement Plan**

175 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

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177 Andy Henry stated the action requested for the meeting was to conduct a public
178 hearing, have discussion, and potentially adopt the 2050 Public Engagement Plan in
179 September. He noted that only one comment had been received about the Public
180 Engagement Plan, and that the goals and objectives and survey have attracted the
181 most attention from the public. Chair Wendy Jacobs inquired about whether there has

182 been any thought given to partnering with organizations to facilitate engagement work.
183 Andy Henry indicated that the goal was to conduct more in-person engagement
184 activities but the pandemic has impeded those opportunities and that there would be a
185 need to develop and implement more creative engagement strategies due to very
186 limited person-to-person activities being currently permissible.

187 Chair Wendy Jacobs opened the public hearing and then closed the hearing
188 given that there were no community members signed up to speak. Chair Wendy Jacobs
189 asked if there were any other comments regarding the Public Engagement Plan.
190 Examples of the comments to strengthen the plan and continue to engage under
191 COVID-19 include 1) going beyond putting the Board's ideas before the community but
192 incorporating their ideas into the work, 2) more general and relatable questions, and 3)
193 reach out to staff and member jurisdictions about ways to reach the most impacted
194 communities during the pandemic.

195 **8. Environmental Justice Report**

196 Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

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198 Anne Phillips presented an update on the draft Environmental Justice Report and
199 indicated that the draft report was released for a 45-day public comment in May. No
200 public comments have been received to date. Anne Phillips then drew the Board's
201 attention to two additional items related to the report: 1) one staff member suggested
202 including an appendix that applies the methodology used in the report to counties so the
203 approach could be employed by counties for projects such as transit plans, and 2) the
204 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) noted the similarity of this report to the 2014
205 report and had questions about why there were fewer census block groups included this

206 time around. Anne Phillips responded that fewer block groups were included because
207 this report only focused on groups within the DCHC boundary.

208 Anne Phillips indicated that the action for today was to hold a public hearing and
209 then the Board would consider adopting the report in September. She then opened the
210 floor comments. Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that she found the appendix very
211 interesting and believed it could aid other governing bodies with decision-making and
212 planning. Chair Wendy Jacobs then opened the public hearing and asked if there was
213 anyone to speak on the item. There were no speakers and Chair Wendy Jacobs closed
214 the public hearing.

215 **9. Chapel Hill North/South Bus Route and Locally Preferred Alternative (LAP)**

216 Matt Cecil, Chapel Hill Transit

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218 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated the Board was being asked to take action on this
219 item by adopting a resolution. Matt Cecil provided an update on the North-South BRT
220 project and noted that staff expects the project to receive a medium overall rating from
221 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and that an amended locally preferred
222 alternative (LPA) was selected by Chapel Hill Town Council. Per the FTA's
223 requirements, the LPA also needs to be adopted by the MPO Board.

224 Michael Parker made a motion to adopt the resolution to amend the LPA for the
225 North-South BRT. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

226 **10. TIP Amendment #2-FY2020-2029**

227 Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

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229 Anne Phillips shared information on the amendment and indicated that most
230 were coming from NCDOT. Anne Phillips highlighted three projects associated with
231 schedule delays, all occurring in Durham. The projects are UB-5904, P5-706 and P7-

232 5717. The City of Durham requested a modification to TA-4923 to acquire buses for
233 GoDurham. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if there any questions or comments. There
234 were several questions regarding the Duke Beltline, NCDOT's decreased funding, and
235 project delays, and insight and updates on NCDOT's current financial situation. Michael
236 Fox provided information and explained that what the Board is seeing is a first step of
237 the reprogramming of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Michael
238 Fox further noted that the STIP funds projects for over a 10-year period and we are
239 currently locked in for the first 5 years. Michael Fox indicated that it would be good to
240 have Van Argabright, Director of Planning and Programming for NCDOT, attend the
241 next Board meeting to answer these questions.

242 Michael Parker made a motion to adopt the resolution approving Amendment #2
243 to the Transportation Improvement Program. Michael Fox seconded the motion. The
244 motion passed unanimously.

245 **11. Orange County Transit Plan**

246 Carolyn Dwyer, Renaissance Planning Group

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248 Carolyn Dwyer provided a project update on the Orange County Transit Plan,
249 along with what to expect over the next couple of months and details on planned public
250 engagement and outreach. Carolyn Dwyer informed the board that they have two major
251 pushes for public engagement. The first deals with understanding goals, wants, and
252 needs of the community. A website has been developed with a wealth of information
253 and a transit summit will be held virtually in October. The second wave of engagement
254 will involve using values, goals, and needs identified during the first phase to transition
255 into scenarios for transit investment and strategy to enhance transit for people in

256 Orange County. She noted that the County is also developing content for two
257 deliverables-one being a transit brochure to better inform the public.

258 No action was required by the MPO Board as this item was for informational
259 purposes.

260 **12. Durham County Transit Plan**

261 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

262 Brooke Ganser, City-County Planning

263 Allison Fluitt and Mary Kate Morookian, Kimley-Horn

264

265 Aaron Cain, Brooke Ganser, and Mary Kate Morookian provided the updates and
266 overview of the Durham Transit Plan. Aaron Cain mentioned that Kimley-Horn was
267 brought on board in May. Aaron Cain emphasized that this is a multi-jurisdictional and
268 multi-agency effort where DCHC MPO serves as the lead. A kickoff meeting was held, a
269 public engagement plan has been developed, and data gathering is well underway. In
270 order to draft goals and objectives, information is being drawn from community insight
271 and comments from the listening and learning community workshops and feedback from
272 engagement ambassador sessions. A Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) plan
273 has been employed to review administration, operations, and maintenance of
274 GoDurham.

275 Chair Wendy Jacobs inquired about the internal review of GoDurham as this was
276 new information to her. It was explained with the many transformative projects in place,
277 that the intent is to be proactive in evaluating key functions such as administration and
278 operations. A final comment from Chair Wendy Jacobs was regarding the Durham
279 Transit Plan website and request for an updated budget. Chair Wendy Jacobs
280 recommended placing the web site outside of the ENGAGEDurham website so it is
281 more prominent in Google searches.

282 No action was required by the MPO Board as this item was for informational
283 purposes.

284 **13. Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Plan**

285 Katharine Eggleston and Charles Lattucc, GoTriangle

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287 Katharine Eggleston introduced the new GoTriangle President and CEO Charles
288 “Chuck” Lattuca who most recently worked with the Maryland Transit Administration
289 (MTA). Katherine Eggleston reminded the Board that they had approved the MOU for
290 the second phase of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Study and that the seven
291 other parties involved have also executed MOU. GoTriangle has authorized the second
292 phase of the study and these activities have kicked off in the last few months.

293 No action was required by the MPO Board as this item was for informational
294 purposes.

295 **[Note: Jenn Weaver began presiding at this point of the meeting due to technical**
296 **difficulties experienced by Wendy Jacobs.**

297

298 **14. FAST Study**

299 Joe Milazzo, Regional Transportation Alliance

300 Natalie Ridout, Regional Transportation Alliance

301 Taruna Tayal, VHB

302 Don Bryson, VHB

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304 Taruna Tayal and Don Bryson provided an overview of the preliminary findings of
305 the Freeway and Street-based Transit (FAST) study. Together, they described high-
306 level details about the purpose of the study and its goal to better connect the Triangle
307 region. The focus of the study is the rapid implementation of an effective, scalable, and
308 regional multimodal transportation system for the region. Taruna Tayal explained that
309 the study was not developed to be a duplication of studies currently in progress, but
310 rather to complement these activities. Key activities include utilizing Bus Rapid Transit

311 (BRT) to connect commuter rail and other forms of transit across the various corridors.
312 Don Bryson explained that this information would inform the transit plan updates, such
313 as enhancing ways that buses can more easily get onto freeways as well as leveling
314 onboarding processes for riders through strategies such as bus on shoulder.

315 No action was required by the MPO Board as this item was for informational
316 purposes.

REPORTS:

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15. Chair Report

320 Wendy Jacobs, Chair

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322

323 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that there would be a joint MPO board meeting on
324 September 29. She emphasized that it will be important to discuss statutes that require
325 improvements around school projects. Major concerns surround issues of requirements
326 for school improvement projects and the burden of costs for particular entities (e.g.,
327 NCDOT or the County). This statute was established in 2017 and Chair Wendy Jacobs
328 asked Aaron Cain to reach out to NCDOT to inquire about participating in the next
329 Board meeting for more discussion.

16. TC Chair Report

330 Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair

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332

333 There was no report from the Technical Committee Chair.

17. LPA Staff Report

334 Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

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336

337 Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO website was being updated. He noted that
338 there is a focus on branding and that staff would be in touch for feedback as well as
339 provide updates.

340 **18. NCDOT Staff Reports**

341 David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, highlighted new developments such on the
342 East End Connector project and the opening of the new ramp from NC-98 onto
343 Eastbound US-70.

344 Patrick Wilson reported that there was no report from Division 7. Aaron Cain
345 inquired about the recent retirement of Mike Mills and Patrick Wilson confirmed the
346 retirement.

347 Brian Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, informed the Board members that all updates
348 were included in their packets and there have been no changes.

349 Julie Bogle stated that there was no additional update from the Transportation
350 Planning Division and welcomed any questions on behalf of her colleagues.

351 **Informational Items**

352 **20. Recent News Article and Updates**

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354 Recent news articles were included in the agenda packet for staff review.

355 **21. SPOT Submissions**

356 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff
357 Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

358
359 Aaron Cain reported that all SPOT submittals were submitted on time and
360 updates on scores should be arriving in a few months. Aaron Cain also informed the
361 Board that Anne Phillips would be assuming SPOT duties and would have items
362 focused on local points methodology and other details in the coming months.

363 Chair Wendy Jacobs announced the next meeting would be held on September 9
364 at 9:00 a.m.

365 **ADJOURNMENT:**

366

367 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was
368 adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

369