

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD****9 September 2020****MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on September 9, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Webex. The following people were in attendance:

Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Steve Schewel (Member)	City of Durham
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Renée Price (Member)	Orange County
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Javiera Caballero (Alternate)	City of Durham
Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Mike Fox (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Joey Hopkins	NCDOT Division 5
Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 5
Wright Archer	NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
Tamara Njegovan	NCDOT Division 7
Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 8
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
Julie Bogle	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Operations
Joe Geigle	FHWA
Van Argabright	NCDOT Division of Planning & Programming
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Pierre Osei-Owusu	City of Durham
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
Jomar Pastorelle	Chapel Hill Planning
Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro

47	Brooke Ganser	Durham County Planning
48	Theo Letman	Orange County
49	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
50	Meg Scully	GoTriangle
51	Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
52	Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
53	Cha'ssem Anderson	University of North Carolina
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55	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
56	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
57	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
58	Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
59	Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
60	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
61	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
62	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
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64	Lynn Purnell	WSP

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66 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

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68 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed of MPO  
69 Board Member and Alternates by Aaron Cain. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of  
70 the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated above.

71 **PRELIMINARIES:**

72 **2. Ethics Reminder**

73 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of  
74 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any  
75 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by  
76 the MPO Board Members.

77 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

78 Aaron Cain requested to remove the Consent Agenda because the MPO Board Meeting  
79 Minutes for August 12 have not yet been completed. Aaron Cain added that those minutes would be  
80 submitted at the October 14 Board Meeting. Chair Wendy Jacobs agreed to remove the Consent  
81 Agenda from the MPO Board Meeting.

**4. Public Comments**

Aaron Cain stated that there were no comments from the public.

**5. Directives to Staff**

There were no directives to staff.

**CONSENT AGENDA:****6. August 12, 2020 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

Aaron Cain stated that the August 12, 2020, MPO Board Meeting Minutes would be submitted at the October 14 MPO Board Meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:****7. Locally Administered Projects and NCDOT Budget****Van Argabright, NCDOT**

Van Argabright stated that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was released in September 2019, and since that time there have been \$3 billion in cost increases, and \$2 billion in revenue declines. Van Argabright continued that, due to these changes, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) reprogrammed the STIP. Van Argabright added that the changes were presented to the North Carolina Board of Transportation in September 2020 and were forwarded to DCHC staff and the MPO Board. Van Argabright noted that the MPO Board would be asked to approve these changes in October 2020. Van Argabright noted that the STIP can be amended after it is approved.

Van Argabright stated that Locally Administered Projects (LAP) have been delayed. Van Argabright noted that NCDOT has dispersed \$15M in funding to Transportation Management Associations (TMA). Van Argabright continued that there has been no schedule for the continued dispersal of funding.

Aaron Cain presented the list of delayed LAP projects that were prioritized in collaboration with NCDOT and local jurisdictions. Aaron Cain noted that, due to the \$15M released by NCDOT,

there were two LAP projects that were able to advance. Aaron Cain stated that there were four projects allowed to proceed due to the August redistribution of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program-Directly Attributable (TAPDA) funding. Van Argabright added that the funding will be distributed from NCDOT by September 30, 2020.

Steve Schewel asked when the authorization for construction will be received for the two projects that received a portion of the \$15M in funding. Aaron Cain responded that the authorization was granted so that a design contract can send a Request for Bid and can receive bids for that project. Ellen Beckmann added that Durham General Services staff are finalizing the design contract bid for proposal, and they are waiting on NCDOT Division 5 for final approval.

There were questions about how projects are prioritized. Aaron Cain responded that local staff provides input on the list and MPO staff also prioritizes projects that already have right-of-way or are in the design phase. Van Argabright added that highway projects and non-highway projects are not competing against each other for funding.

Van Argabright stated that the sale of \$700M in Build NC bonds is vital to the NCDOT financial plan, but the North Carolina Treasurer has been reluctant to approve the sale. Van Argabright added that NCDOT prefers that sale begin in September, but the sale would most likely occur in December. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Van Argabright discussed that the impact of waiting until December would be limited funding for projects until further funding is released, and the ability to begin new projects would be limited. Mike Fox stated that the NC Board of Transportation has contacted the NC Treasurer in support of the sale of the Build NC bonds.

Steve Schewel recommended that the MPO Board draft a letter to the Secretary of Transportation to promote local interests in the reprogramming of the STIP. Aaron Cain added that he has met with the STIP Central Region Manager, Mike Stanley, to communicate the DCHC MPO

project priorities. There was consensus from the MPO Board to draft a letter to NCDOT to highlight local priorities. Aaron Cain stated that staff would draft the letter and seek approval from Chair Wendy Jacobs and Vice Chair Jenn Weaver.

There was no action is necessary at this time; this item is for informational and discussion purposes only.

**8. STIP Reprogramming**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips stated that the STIP was impacted by NCDOT budget shortfalls issues related to COVID-19, the Map Act, and storm responses. Anne Phillips added that the STIP now goes to 2032 instead of 2029 as originally planned. Anne Phillips added that the STIP must be realigned for it to be fiscally constrained. Anne Phillips stated that the STIP reprogramming is impacted by its committed status, relative SPOT score, and delivery status.

Anne Phillips added that there are plans from NCDOT for \$700M in Build NC bonds, which would allow for more projects to advance. Anne Phillips added that the reprogrammed STIP is scheduled to be reviewed by the North Carolina Board of Transportation and is scheduled to be voted on in October 2020. Anne Phillips added that some projects may be swapped, but further conversations with NCDOT are needed. Anne Phillips stated that there are 37 total transportation projects impacted within the DCHC MPO boundaries. Anne Phillips added that most were widening and pavement rehabilitation projects with the average delay being approximately three to four years. Anne Phillips and Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed that MTP amendments may be required due to the reprogramming of the STIP. Anne Phillips added that due to the date of the next horizon year being in 2025, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has stated that MTP amendments may not be required because that date is outside the first four years of the STIP. Anne Phillips and Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed amending the MTP .

Steve Schewel asked about the status of the Woodcraft Parkway Extension. Steve Schewel and Aaron Cain discussed that there has already been approximately \$230,000 in design costs to date. Ellen Beckmann added that she is awaiting further guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding funding.

Steve Schewel stated that the 15-501 / Garrett Road Interchange project is on this list and was influenced by the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DOLRT) design. Steve Schewel asked if there is an opportunity for its redesign due to the dissolution of the DOLRT. Joey Hopkins responded that the 15-501 / Garrett Road Interchange project design is already completed.

Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain encouraged the MPO Board to review the list and provide comments to MPO staff by Tuesday, September 15.

There was no action is necessary at this time; this item was for informational and discussion purposes only.

**9. MPO Board Governance Committee**  
**Damon Seils, Town of Carrboro**

Damon Seils stated that an MPO Board Governance Committee was formed to explore issues related to governance and organizational structure of the MPO. Damon Seils added that the recommendations are for the MPO Board to authorize the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) to issue a request for information (RFI) from the DCHC MPO's list of prequalified contractors about their capabilities to study and make recommendations to the MPO Board by February 2021. Damon Seils added that the project will focus on governance, organization, and management.

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked about the amount of funding and how it would be provided. Damon Seils responded that Sean Egan previously stated that there are funds available. There was discussion about the cost of the proposal. Damon Seils responded that the most that would be available was \$200,000, but he believed that the cost would be significantly lower. There was a

discussion that there would be no budget limit set on the RFI, because the scope can be narrowed based on the price of the bids.

Michael Parker stated that there have been concerns about the MPO not being as much of a robust presence in the area as it could be. There was discussion about how the DCHC MPO brings its values into their projects. Renée Price asked about reorganization based on balance between different jurisdictions. Damon Seils responded that the urbanized areas are defined by law and representation within the MPO is dictated by population changes. Renée Price and Damon Seils discussed the role of financial management in DCHC MPO.

There was discussion that two MPO Board Members would be appointed to a selection committee to finalize the scope of work, prepare an independent cost estimate and identify resources, review responses to the RFI, and select one or more contractors. Damon Seils and Karen Howard were chosen by the MPO Board to serve on the selection committee.

Renée Price made a motion made a motion to adopt the recommendations of the committee. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **10. 2050 MTP -- Goals and Objectives**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives were released in June 2020 for a public comment period, and a public hearing occurred in August 2020. Andy Henry added that the Goals and Objectives were modified based on the public comments. Andy Henry presented to the MPO Board a list of the original Goals and Objectives and the changes that were made. Andy Henry noted that the modified Goals and Objectives are more based on outcomes. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Andy Henry discussed that certain Goals and Objectives adopted language that was stronger and clearer.

Renée Price made a motion to approve the Goals and Objectives for use in the development of the 2050 MTP. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **11. 2050 MTP Public Engagement Plan and Schedule**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry stated that the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Public Engagement Plan and Schedule was released for public comment in June 2020, and the public hearing occurred in August. Andy Henry continued that only one public comment was recorded, and MPO staff does not recommend any changes to the 2050 MTP Public Engagement Plan and Schedule.

Damon Seils made a motion to approve the Public Engagement Plan and schedule for use in developing the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**12. US 15-501 Corridor Study****Andy Henry, LPA staff****Lynn Purnell, WSP (consultant)**

Andy Henry stated the US 15-501 Corridor Study began in 2018 with a visioning exercise of local stakeholders who toured the corridor by bus. Andy Henry added there has also been a steering committee, public workshops, public outreach, presentations to local governments, and interim reports to the MPO Board. Andy Henry noted that a community profile and travel profile were created. Andy Henry continued that the final report splits the 15-501 corridor into four segments to better understand travel patterns and provide recommendations. Lynn Purnell stated that he would discuss the 15-501 corridor in four segments, each with its own vision.

Lynn Purnell stated that that Segment 1 is from Ephesus Church Road to I-40 and has the highest level of through traffic. Lynn added that the vision is to create a more urban environment. Lynn Purnell stated that residential and commercial development is increasing. Lynn Purnell added that the plan is to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. Lynn Purnell stated that the cross-section design for Segment 1 is to have a multi-use path on either side of 15-501. Lynn Purnell continued that there will be a bus lane in either direction, but the type of bus travel has not yet been decided. Lynn Purnell added that there will be six lanes on 15-501 with a wide median.



Lynn Purnell stated that Segment 2 is from I-40 to the 15-501 bypass. Lynn Purnell stated that this segment is similar to Segment 1 with high traffic volumes. Lynn added that Segment 2 would be grade separated. Lynn Purnell stated that the cross section for Segment 2 would have a multi-use path adjacent to the corridor with a landscaped area between it and the road. Lynn Purnell added that there would also be a bus lane in either direction.

Lynn Purnell stated that Segment 3 is from the 15-501 bypass to Chapel Hill Road. Lynn Purnell noted that traffic is at a lower volume than the previous two segments. Lynn added that the lack of street scaping emboldens drivers to exceed the speed limit, therefore there are plans to build roundabouts to slow traffic. Lynn Purnell stated that the cross section for Section 3 would have a landscaped median and a multi-use path on either side of the road.

Lynn Purnell stated that Segment 4 is from Chapel Hill Road to University Drive, and it would have a more residential feel that would build off the previous road diet. Lynn Purnell added that it would have slower speeds. Lynn Purnell stated that the cross section would have on-street bicycle facilities and a sidewalk on either side of the road.

Lynn Purnell stated that the implementation for the recommended changes would take place in the short, medium, and long-term time frames that have been identified in the local plans and the STIP. Lynn Purnell noted that there will be additional analysis as projects move into implementation. Lynn Purnell mentioned that there will be a higher level of design and analysis in future phases.

Andy Henry stated that the next steps are to release the reports and map for public comment that would run through October 15. Andy Henry continued that the MPO Board would hold a public hearing at their meeting on October 14. Andy Henry added that the MPO Board would then vote on final approval at their November 11 meeting.

Michael Parker asked about the design of bus lanes in Segment 2. Andy Henry responded that the bus stops would be in the developments, not on the roadway, and the lanes will travel up the middle

of the 15-501 corridor. Michael Parker asked about right-of-way allowances for Segment 1. Andy Henry responded that there is sufficient right-of-way to accommodate the cross-section plans.

Renée Price expressed concerns that the plans do not provide enough access and safety for pedestrians in Segment 1 and 2. Andy Henry responded that Segment 2 will be grade separated, and pedestrians will travel over US 15-501 and I-40 instead of traversing them. Andy Henry added that Segment 1 allows for signal timing to control the speed of traffic to allow for pedestrians to safely cross. Renée Price noted that the designs seem to favor vehicle traffic and would prefer to see more safety measures for pedestrians. There was discussion of implementing more of the DCHC MPO's values into this design to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian travel. There was further discussion about the difficulty of designing for the different segments and balancing priorities.

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked about transit in Segment 3 and 4. Andy Henry responded that in Segment 1 and 2 there would be dedicated transit lanes, but in Segment 3 and 4 there would be only local transit service. Andy Henry continued that buses would use Segment 1 and 2 for through traffic to help get people to their homes or places of employment.

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how MPO staff will engage the public during the public comment period while observing COVID restrictions. Andy Henry responded that he had plans to send notifications through his active participant list, neighborhood associations, and public affairs offices in local jurisdictions.

Damon Seils made a motion to release the US 15-501 Corridor Study for public comment.

Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. Environmental Justice Report**  
**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips stated that the MPO Board released the Environmental Justice (EJ) Report in May 2020 for its 45-day public comment period. Anne Phillips added that no public comments were received during the public comment period nor during the subsequent public hearing in August. Anne Phillips

noted that the only significant change to the EJ Report is that that local staff added the thresholds for the three counties and mapped communities of concern to the appendix.

Michael Parker made a motion to adopt the 2020 Environmental Justice Report. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **14. Designation of I-885**

**John Grant, NCDOT**

John Grant stated that, due to a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirement, NCDOT has requested a resolution of support from DCHC MPO regarding the addition of I-885 in Durham County, which would be a continuous highway from I-85 to I-40. John Grant added that this highway would be designated as I-885 upon completion of the East End Connector in Durham. John Grant continued that this designation would rename the portion of what is currently NC 147 from the East End Connector to I-40 as I-885.

There was discussion about whether transit facilities would be allowed on I-885 after its re-designation. There was discussion that there was not clear guidance about future transit facility allowances. There was discussion about drafting a letter to FHWA to express concerns about future transit accommodations. John Grant responded that he is reluctant to add that language to the resolution due to potential scrutiny of the designation. There was discussion about an expected communication to DCHC MPO from NCDOT from State Traffic Engineer Kevin Lacy that would document that the interstate designation would not negatively impact the ability to have dedicated transit facilities on the roadway in the future, and that would be more useful than drafting a resolution to FHWA.

Michael Parker made a motion to adopt the resolution re-designating a portion of NC 147 as I-885, with the understanding that the MPO would be receiving a letter from State Traffic Engineer Kevin Lacy about allowing transit facilities on the redesignated I-885. Renée Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **15. Air Quality Memorandum of Agreement**

**Andy Henry, LPA**

Andy Henry stated that whenever a change is made to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), an Air Quality Conformity Determination Report must be conducted to determine that emissions from the transportation sector will be below a certain threshold. Andy Henry stated that the current Air Quality Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was adopted in February 2014. Andy Henry stated that this draft of the MOA has minor changes such as updating the name of an agency and describing technological improvements to procedures.

Vice Chair Jenn Weaver made a motion to direct the Board Chair to sign the Air Quality Memorandum of Agreement. Damon Seils seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**16. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant - FFY19 and FFY20 Program of Projects**  
**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko stated that the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program provides funds to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. Felix Nwoko added that the DCHC MPO is the Designated Recipient of the funds for the Durham urbanized area (UZA) and distributes the funds to eligible sub-recipients through a competitive selection process every other year. Felix Nwoko continued that a Call for Projects was conducted for \$529,150 in federal funds, which was the total funding apportioned to the Durham UZA for FFY2019 and FFY2020. Felix Nwoko presented the recommended Program of Projects (PoP), which was reviewed by MPO staff

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the proposed Program of Projects. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**17. Report from the MPO Board Chair**  
**Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair**

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked Vice Chair Jenn Weaver to report on the Joint DCHC MPO and CAMPO executive committee meeting. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver and Aaron Cain noted that attendees discussed agenda items such as legislative priorities for 2021 and commuter rail, among other topics. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver and Aaron Cain discussed that tentative future dates for joint DCHC MPO and CAMPO meeting were December 1, 2020, and January 5, 2021.

**18. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

Nish Trivedi, TC Chair

Nish Trivedi stated that there is nothing additional to report.

**19. Report from LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that there is nothing additional to report. Aaron Cain stated that Kevin Lacy has been scheduled to discuss an agenda item about road improvements surrounding schools at the next MPO Board meeting.

**20. NCDOT Report**

Richard Hancock, Division 5, stated that US 70 is scheduled to be included in the configuration of the East End Connector project by November 2020. Richard Hancock added that Alston Avenue is closed from Liberty Street to Holloway Street, and it is now scheduled to open in late October. Richard Hancock continued that the utility issues have been addressed for EB 4707A - Old Durham Road near Wegmans.

Pat Wilson, Division 7, stated that Division Engineer Mike Mills has retired, and Wright Archer is the new Division Engineer.

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

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division, stated that the traffic survey group published the 2019 annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume counts on [connect.ncdot.gov](https://connect.ncdot.gov).

John Grant, NCDOT Traffic Operations, stated that there is no additional report.

354 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

355 **21. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

356 Chair Wendy Jacobs encouraged attendees to read the information items, and reminded  
357 everyone that the next MPO Board Meeting would be on October 14 at 9:00 a.m.

358 **ADJOURNMENT:**

359 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at  
360 11:48 a.m.