

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

4 November 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on November 4, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Pierce Freelon (Member)	City of Durham
Charlie Reece (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
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Joey Hopkins	NCDOT Division 5
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 5
Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
Julie Bogle	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
Joe Geigle	FHWA
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
Jomar Pastorelle	Chapel Hill Planning
Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Scott Whiteman	Durham County
Nish Trivedi	Orange County
John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
Cha'ssem Anderson	University of North Carolina
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO

47	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
48	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
49	Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
50	Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
51	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
52	Casey Chae	DCHC MPO
53	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
54	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
55		
56	Michael Crook	Home Depot
57	Iona Thomas	McAdams
58	Beth Trahos	Nelson-Mullins
59	Mike Waldroup	Resident
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63 Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members

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66 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call of MPO Board Member

67 and Alternates was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO

68 Board were identified and are indicated above. Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that MPO staff indicate

69 when an MPO Board official enters the meeting.

70 **PRELIMINARIES:**

71 **2. Ethics Reminder**

72 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of

73 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any

74 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by

75 the MPO Board Members.

76 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

77 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

78 **4. Public Comments**

Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that Mike Waldroup and Beth Trahos requested to make public comments about the 15-501 Study agenda item.

5. Directives to Staff

Aaron Cain stated that there were no additional directives to staff.

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. October 14, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. US 15-501 Corridor Study

Andy Henry, LPA staff

Chair Wendy Jacobs opened the public hearing. Beth Trahos stated that she was an attorney representing New Hope Commons (NHC) shopping center, and she related that there are concerns that NHC will not retain its connectivity due to the design in segment two of the 15-501 Corridor Study despite design revisions. Beth Trahos requested a detailed technical review of the designs. Michael Waldroup voiced concerns about the current design plan for the areas surrounding Patterson Place. Michael Waldroup presented his own design plans to the MPO Board and requested that a subcommittee convene to add more community involvement. Chair Wendy Jacobs closed the public hearing.

Andy Henry stated that Chair Wendy Jacobs had previously asked MPO staff to respond to comments from the public and members of the MPO Board. Andy Henry continued that a steering committee was convened to respond to the questions from the MPO Board and residents, and the responses are in the agenda packet. Andy Henry stated that alternatives were discussed, and design elements proposed in the US 15-501 Corridor Study are aimed at addressing projected traffic increases.

There was consensus among the MPO Board that the design for the 15-501 corridor ought to better prioritize multimodal transportation over vehicle travel. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Pam Hemminger discussed more involvement with stakeholders for their input on the corridor design. There was discussion about using a different consultant for the study. Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that MPO staff present their ideas for the next steps in the 15-501 Study to the MPO Board on December 9. Andy Henry suggested that MPO Board members provide him with further input following the meeting.

No additional action was required by the MPO Board.

8. Triangle Region ITS Strategic Deployment Plan Update
Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff Casey Chae, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the Triangle Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Strategic Deployment Plan Update was discussed and released for the 21-day public comment period at the MPO Board meeting on October 14, but no public comments were received. Felix Nwoko added that the Triangle Regional ITS Strategic Deployment plan is an element of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and will be incorporated in the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to adopt the Triangle Regional ITS Deployment Plan. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. State of the Region Report
Felix Nwoko, LPA staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the State of the Region Report was released for a 21-day public comment period on October 14, but no public comments have been received. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO staff is creating a brochure for public consumption, as well as adding information to the DCHC MPO website.

Charlie Reece recommended that MPO staff review how the State of the Region Report can be integrated with other reports. Chair Wendy Jacobs added that this report could help inform the county transit plans and land-use plans.

Charlie Reece made a motion to adopt the 2019 State of the Region report. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. TIP Amendment #3

Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

Anne Phillips stated that MPO staff prefers that the MPO Board does not approve the recommended action for Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment #3 because more time is needed to discuss a proposed swap of projects with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). Anne Phillips asked that the Board delay the public comment period as well.

Anne Phillips stated that Amendment #3 to the TIP consists of projects that have been amended in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) by NCDOT and projects that were affected by NCDOT's STIP reprogramming exercise. Anne Phillips continued that projects amended by NCDOT in the STIP need to be amended in the MPO's TIP so that the TIP and STIP remain in concurrence. Anne Phillips added that DCHC MPO is also amending several locally administered projects to reflect more realistic project delivery schedules.

Anne Phillips stated that, in accordance with conversations with NCDOT, three locally administered projects are being delayed, allowing Woodcroft Parkway Extension (U-5823) to move into construction into FY 23 from FY 31 in the STIP reprogramming exercise. Anne Phillips stated that the three locally administered projects are: Third Fork Creek Trail (EB-5837); Guess Road Sidewalks (EB-5834); and NC 55 Sidewalks (EB-5835). Anne Phillips stated that MPO and City of Durham staff are proposing schedule delays for these three projects so that the City of Durham does not lose design work that has already been completed on the Woodcroft Parkway Extension. Anne Phillips noted that the City of Durham paid for the design of the Woodcroft Parkway Extension with local funds.

Damon Seils made the motion to return TIP Amendment #3 to MPO staff for further discussion.

Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #2

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry proposed that the Briggs Avenue Extension project be removed from the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for several reasons. First, CSX will not provide approval for an at-grade crossing. Andy Henry explained that there are further issues with rerouting due to conflicts with residential and commercial land-use, but a serviceable grid system will remain without the Briggs Avenue Extension. Andy Henry stated that, following the public comment period, the MPO Board would vote on approval of the CTP amendment on December 9. Andy Henry noted that COVID-19 guidelines require an additional 24-hour comment period following the December 3 public comment deadline.

Damon Seils made a motion to release Amendment #2 to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for public comment. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. 2050 MTP - SE Data and TRM

Andy Henry, LPA

Andy Henry stated that the deficiency analysis and needs assessment are the next milestone of the 2050 MTP and it includes Socioeconomic (SE) Data and the Triangle Regional Model (TRM). The alternatives analysis will follow. Andy noted that the presentation will mostly discuss the deficiency analysis and needs assessment. Andy Henry added that John Hodges-Copple will present the scenarios at the Joint DCHC MPO and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) meeting on December 1. Andy Henry noted that the performance measures are currently being developed.

Andy Henry stated that the TRM encompasses both DCHC MPO and CAMPO. Andy Henry noted that the two main aspects of socioeconomic data are employment and population, which is based on dwelling units and jobs.

176 Andy Henry noted that 2050 is the forecast year for the MTP. Andy Henry continued that trends
177 from the North Carolina Office of State Management were used to build forecasts for population. Andy
178 Henry noted that employment forecasts were built using Woods and Poole. Andy Henry added that he
179 would bring performance measures before the MPO Board for approval before they are used for the
180 deficiency analysis.

181 Renée Price asked about the measurables for the needs assessment. Andy Henry
182 responded that the performance measures are aligned with the goals and objectives. Andy Henry
183 responded that MPO staff will use the performance measures in the needs assessment. Michael Parker
184 asked if projected transit demand is impacted by a lack of current transit investment. Andy Henry
185 responded that alternative analysis can be used with different scenarios to account for lack of current
186 investments. Andy Henry added that he would provide more information t at the MPO Board meeting
187 on December 9.

188 Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how the MPO Board can help residents access networks to travel to
189 their job sites. Andy Henry responded that different scenarios can be used for alternative jobs sites to
190 best make recommendations for land-use. Andy Henry noted that the TRM uses 2016 and 2020 as base
191 years while the Community Viz model projects areas of job growth. Michael Parker and Andy Henry
192 discussed that the TRM could expand to include Alamance and Johnson counties due to the rate of job
193 growth outpacing population growth. Chair Wendy Jacobs noted the importance of offering transit
194 options to residents. Renée Price and Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed the impacts of Covid-19 and how
195 workers are traveling less because they are often working from home. Chair Wendy Jacobs requested
196 that acronyms be spelled out in the titles of future reports for better understanding by residents.

197 The MPO Board received the presentation on the next steps and milestones of the TRM. No
198 further action was required by the MPO Board.

199 **13. Triangle Bikeway Study**
200 **Dale McKeel, LPA**

Iona Thomas, McAdams

Dale McKeel stated that Triangle Bikeway Study is a joint project with DCHC MPO and CAMPO to review the regional bikeway network. Iona Thomas stated that the proposed Triangle Bikeway corridor is approximately 17 miles long. Iona Thomas noted that the western side of the bikeway is a feasibility study, whereas the eastern part is 30% design. Iona Thomas noted that the existing bicycle and pedestrian networks are currently being evaluated as part of the Triangle Bikeway Study. Iona Thomas discussed the impact of cleaner and quieter roadways due to technological advances such as electric vehicles.

Iona Thomas noted that the public input phase is nearly completed. Iona Thomas added that she will be returning to the DCHC MPO Board in spring 2021 to discuss alternatives, and she will return in fall 2021 to present recommendations for preferred alignments. Iona Thomas commented that the community engagement approach included effective multijurisdictional coordination; broad stakeholder involvement; meaningful engagement with under-engaged groups; and adaptive engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic. Iona Thomas added that additional information can be found at www.trianglebikeway.com. Iona Thomas noted that national case studies were reviewed because there is not a similar project in the region.

Iona Thomas discussed that there is currently appropriate geographic representation in engagement, but not enough minority participation. Iona Thomas added focus groups are being convened to address gaps in engagement. Iona Thomas presented information from the survey including the preferences and usage of the responders, noting that facilities further separated from vehicle traffic were preferred. Iona Thomas provided an overview of the next steps for the study.

Damon Seils and Renée Price requested that Carrboro be included in the feasibility study. Dale McKeel responded that, during the earlier review of the scope, it was determined that the existing side paths along 54 could be used as part of the network. Renée Price and Iona Thomas discussed outreach

strategies that could be used to obtain more diversity. The MPO Board received the presentation. No further action required was required by the MPO Board.

14. Move Durham

Ellen Beckmann, City of Durham

Ellen Beckmann stated that the Move Durham plan has been in development for two years. Ellen Beckmann noted that the Move Durham plan was created in coordination with DCHC MPO, NCDOT, and local jurisdictions. Ellen Beckmann added that the plan was funded by DCHC MPO and NCDOT. Ellen Beckmann noted that Alta Planning was the main consultant. Ellen Beckmann stated the City of Durham adopted the plan in October 2020. Ellen Beckmann noted that the DCHC MPO will be asked to incorporate Move Durham into several MPO transportation plans. Ellen Beckmann noted that there would be no dedicated funding available to implement the plan.

Ellen Beckmann stated that the study area for Move Durham is central Durham, which has a higher density and more transit than other areas in Durham. Ellen Beckmann noted several events have impacted or will impact traffic patterns in central Durham including the opening of the East End Connector, operational improvements along NC 147, and the discontinuation of the Durham Orange Light Rail Transit (DOLRT). Ellen Beckmann stated that, while there are funding challenges with implementation with the plan, it can serve as a blueprint for other areas within the MPO.

Ellen Beckmann stated that the study's vision was made after community comments during the outreach phase, which occurred prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ellen Beckmann added that the vision for Move Durham is to move people over moving traffic, and to improve safety and equity. Ellen Beckmann stated that phase two evaluated priority corridors that were selected from feedback in phase one. Ellen Beckmann added that policy and infrastructure recommendations were based on public outreach.

Ellen Beckmann outlined the short-term and long-term recommendations. Ellen Beckmann noted that long-term recommendations will be more difficult to fund. Ellen Beckmann reported that

NCDOT representatives prefer that certain streets be turned over to local jurisdiction and would be decided case by case.

Ellen Beckmann noted that there were four main themes from the Durham Freeway's inclusion as part of the study: distrust of government, issues of equity, improving non-vehicular connectivity, and expanding pedestrian facilities. Ellen Beckmann noted that there were no specific project recommendations made in this report.

Chair Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Beckmann discussed that the Durham Freeway's study is delayed and will be discussed further in the Comprehensive Plan. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Beckmann discussed the next steps, including MPO staff involvement in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Damon Seils discussed the MPO's vision and mission relating to local projects. Pierce Freelon recommended that the City of Durham engage the Race and Equity Task Force during the discussion of the UPWP. Ellen Beckmann stated that her employment at Durham County is scheduled to start on November 16.

This item is for informational purposes only; no action was required by the MPO Board.

15. NC Moves 2050 Draft Recommendations
Julie Bogle, NCDOT

Julie Bogle presented a video about the updated NC Moves 2050 Plan. The narrator of the video presented material about how the NC Moves 2050 Plan was developed with the help of subject matter experts and public input. The narrator stated that the objectives of the NC Moves 2050 Plan are: (1) multimodal inclusive and connected; (2) technology ready and enabled system; (3) safe and secure system for all users; (4) a system that works for NC's economy; and (5) a resilient and high quality system. The narrator discussed the strategies for each objective and the timeframe for their implementation. The narrator stated that public comment period will begin on October 9 and close on November 9. The narrator stated that the link for the survey can be found at ncmoves.gov.

The narrator stated that there is an implementation plan to track, report, and communicate progress of the actions. The narrator added that profile sheets were created to aid the implementation process for each action. The narrator continued that a webtool is being developed for public interaction and will available after the plan is adopted. The narrator noted that the NC Moves 2050 Plan is scheduled to presented to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Board of Transportation for approval in December 2020.

Chair Wendy Jacobs recommended that staff submit comments to the MPO Board for their review before the November 9 deadline. Dale McKeel noted that he is currently working on reviewing and providing comments, and he will send the information to MPO staff upon completion. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver asked about participation in the survey. Julie Bogle responded that she would provide answers following the meeting. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if there would be funding associated with the NC Moves 2050 Plan. Julie Bogle responded that funding will be discussed in further detail upon implementation. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how the three tiers were developed. Julie Bogle responded that she would provide answers following the meeting. Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that the tiered actions appear to have overlap.

The MPO Board received the report. No further action was required by the MPO Board.

16. 2021 DCHC MPO Meeting Calendar
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain noted that an MPO Board is scheduled on September 8, which is the same day as Rosh Hashannah. Aaron Cain suggested moving the date to either September 1 or September 15, depending on the schedules of the MPO Board. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed MPO staff conferring with the respective offices of the MPO Board members and alternates to decide on a final date.

17. DCHC MPO Board Officer Nominations
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain noted that the DCHC MPO bylaws state that the MPO Board must vote on officers in December 2020. Aaron Cain added that Chair Wendy Jacobs and Vice Chair Jenn Weaver are eligible to serve a second term. Chair Wendy Jacobs recommended that Damon Seils, Karen Howard, and Javiera Caballero comprise the nominating committee. Charlie Reece noted that Javiera Caballero is an alternate to the MPO Board. Chair Wendy Jacobs nominated Charlie Reece in place of Javiera Caballero, noting his status as a member.

Michael Parker made a motion to form a nominating committee consisting of Damon Seils, Karen Howard, and Charlie Reece to recommend a slate of officers at the December MPO Board meeting. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

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

Chair Wendy Jacobs reminded the Board that the Joint DCHC MPO and CAMPO meeting is scheduled for December 1 at 9 a.m., and it will be held virtually. Aaron Cain added that the agenda is forthcoming. Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that joint legislative goals for DOT funding be discussed in the upcoming joint meeting.

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

Ellen Beckmann stated that there is no additional report.

18. Report from LPA Staff **Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko stated that there is no additional report.

19. NCDOT Reports

David Keilson, Division 5, stated that the intersection at Alston Avenue and Holloway Street is scheduled to reopen in January 2021. David Keilson added that the overall completion date of the

Alston Avenue project (U-3308) is scheduled for fall 2021. David Keilson stated that the Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road project (EB-4707A) is scheduled to be completed by November 2021. David Keilson added that the western section of that project is scheduled to be completed in December 2020. David Keilson stated that the East End Connector project (U-0071) is scheduled to be completed in June 2021.

Stephen Robinson, Division 7, stated that the West Ten Road improvement project (U-6245) has a start date in November 2020 and a completion date in April 2021. Stephen Robinson continued that the NC 86 guard rail installation (SS-6007C) is scheduled to begin in October 2021 and is scheduled to be completed in April 2022.

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

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

There was no additional report from John Grant, NCDOT Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

21. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the next DCHC MPO meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020.

Renée Price made a motion to adjourn. Pierce Freelon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.