



DCHC MPO Board

101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

9:00 AM

Committee Room 2nd Floor Durham City Hall

Regular Meeting

1. Roll Call

Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The roll call was completed using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom participant list for remote attendees. Chair Jenn Weaver asked the Board to approve an excused absence for Member Pam Hemminger, which the Board approved.

2. Ethics Reminder

Chair Jenn Weaver referenced the Ethics Reminder included in the agenda packet.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

4. Public Comments

Aaron Cain read a question posed by Dave Connelly in the Zoom chat about why two Durham trail projects listed in Item #6: Amendment #13 to the FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are delayed. Bill Judge explained that the design of the trails is taking longer than expected.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of the October 12, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

David Miller, LPA Staff

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Damon Seils seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This Minutes was approved.

6. Amendment #13 to the FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

(TIP)

Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Damon Seils seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This Informational Report was approved and referred to the Technical Committee due back on 11/16/2022

ACTION ITEMS

7. Durham County Transit Plan Recommended Scenario and Release for Public Comment (30 minutes)

Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transportation Manager

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Ellen Beckmann said that state law requires DCHC MPO, GoTriangle and the Durham Board of County Commissioners approve the Durham County Transit Plan (DCTP). Ellen Beckmann stated that the current DCTP was first approved in 2011 with a successful sales tax referendum, and was updated in 2017. Ellen Beckmann said that the draft DCTP will guide how to use the sales tax and fees through 2040. Ellen Beckmann shared the planning process timeline, ongoing public engagement activities, the financial breakdown of the DCTP revenues, and the planned and continuing projects through 2040.

Aaron Cain shared the key themes of the draft DCTP: improve the current system, more projects sooner, connect the region with quick and reliable service, and a better experience at stops and station. Aaron Cain shared the details of the services and financial breakdown of the six key buckets in the draft DCTP, which include enhancing and extending bus service, commuter rail, bus stop improvements and transit centers, more routes going more places, faster and more reliable bus service, and paratransit improvements. Ellen Beckmann shared that this is a financially constrained plan, and that the model meets requirements agreed to by GoTriangle and Durham County.

Damon Seils asked how the DCTP and Orange County Transit Plan (OCTP) are working together to connect the two counties. Ellen Beckmann replied that collaboration on the two plans has included a corresponding financial match to the 400-405 bus service, increased mid-day service, and Durham helping fund improvements that extend into Orange County.

Michael Parker asked if North Carolina statute requires the transit plan to be modified every five years. Ellen Beckmann replied that the Interlocal Agreement guides the frequency of updates. Michael Parker pointed out that there will be subsequent changes during the life of the DCTP, and that it could be beneficial to reconceptualize the Bus Rapid Transit approach to ensure that corridors needing improved transit are identified first before proposing a specific mode to solve the problem.

Leonardo Williams asked if studies are necessary for all projects. Ellen Beckmann replied that the DCTP process benefited from having a study conducted to due to its large scale of projects and potential commitments. Aaron Cain added that many major capital projects relying on federal funding typically require a study as a necessary first step. Leonardo Williams asked how the public can follow projects, and Ellen Beckmann replied that project information is published online for public consumption.

Sally Greene stated that connecting transit to downtown Durham and UNC hospitals should be a priority, and that a shared consultant working on both the OCTP and DCTP would have been ideal. Ellen Beckmann replied that both plans have been coordinated together and have matching and shared services. Wendy Jacobs asked where on-demand service fits in with the draft DCTP, and Aaron Cain replied that funding has been set aside for GoDurham Connect to expand, and for van service subsidies. Javiera Caballero asked if the public will be able to view the financial tables associated with the DCTP, and Ellen Beckmann replied that they are available. Javiera Caballero asked what information is being shared with the public about the commuter rail study, and Ellen Beckmann replied that while the project is included in the DCTP, it is acknowledged that it is not currently committed.

Damon Seils made a motion to release the Draft DCTP for a 21-day public comment period. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This Informational Report was approved and referred to the Technical Committee due back on 12/21/2022

8. MPO Board Officer Nominations for 2023 (5 minutes)

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHCMPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski shared the MPO Board Officer nominating process. Chair Jenn Weaver stated that she will appoint a nominating committee after the Board meeting.

This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 12/14/2022

REPORTS:

9. Report from the Board Chair

Jenn Weaver, Board Chair

Chair Jenn Weaver shared that she recently participated in an e-Bike tour of Asheville offered by the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, which highlighted bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and showcased a joint economic development project between NCDOT, the area MPO, and public input.

This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 12/14/2022

10. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann had no new information to share.

This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 12/14/2022

11. Report from LPA Staff

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHCMPO Executive Director

In addition to the LPA Staff written report, Doug Plachcinski said that a transition plan for the MPO will be shared with the Governance Subcommittee soon. Doug Plachcinski shared that David Miller was recently promoted to the MPO's Business Services Administrator, and that a new Planner has been hired and will start at the MPO in mid-November.

This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 12/14/2022

12. NCDOT Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT

Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT

Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT

John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

Nick Morrison - NCDOT IMD

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation: Lisa Mathis shared that the last Draft 2024-2033 State

Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) public comment opportunity has ended, that NCDOT is working on collaborative efforts to have zero carbon emissions, the NC By Train service recently achieved an all-time high with passenger ridership, shared an aviation art contest opportunity, and provided details about the upcoming 2023 N.C. Transportation Summit.

Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT: There was no additional report.

Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT: There was no additional report.

Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT: There was no additional report.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT: There was no additional report.

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

Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division - NCDOT: Nick Morrison stated that an IMD quarterly update webinar will occur on November 10, and that a request has been made to develop a presentation about the S-Line project.

This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 12/14/2022

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

13. Recent News Articles and Updates

Chair Jenn Weaver referenced the recent news articles and updates.

This Informational Report was referred to the DCHC MPO Board due back on 12/14/2022

Adjourn

There being no further business before the MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Next meeting: December 14, 2022, 9 a.m., Committee Room

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings:

N.C. Transportation Summit, January 18-19, 2023, at the Raleigh Convention Center (500 S Salisbury St, Raleigh)