DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

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Julie Bollinger

2 June 10, 2015 3 MINUTES OF MEETING 4 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on June 10, 2015, 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Committee Room on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following 6 attended: 7 8 Mark Kleinschmidt (MPO Board Chair) Town of Chapel Hill 9 Diane Catotti (MPO Board Vice-Chair) City of Durham 10 Steve Schewel City of Durham 11 Brenda Howerton (alternate) **Durham County** 12 Ellen Reckhow **Durham County** 13 **Barry Jacobs Orange County** 14 Bernadette Pelissier GoTriangle 15 Jim W. Crawford NC Board of Transportation 16 Lydia Lavelle (alternate) Town of Carrboro 17 Town of Carrboro **Damon Seils** 18 Ed Harrison (alternate) Town of Chapel Hill 19 20 Mark Ahrendsen City of Durham/DCHC MPO 21 Dale McKeel City of Durham/DCHC MPO 22 Ellen Beckmann City of Durham Transportation 23 Felix Nwoko DCHC MPO 24 **Brian Rhodes** DCHC MPO 25 Meg Scully DCHC MPO 26 **Lindsay Smart** DCHC MPO 27 **Joey Hopkins** NCDOT, Division 5 28 **Ed Lewis** NCDOT, Division 7 29 **Darius Sturdivant** NCDOT, Division 8 30 Town of Carrboro Tina Moon 31 Town of Carrboro Bergen Watterson 32 **David Bonk** Town of Chapel Hill 33 John Hodges-Copple Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) 34 John Kent Citizen 35 Tina Glover **Durham County** 36 **Donnie Brew FHWA** GoTriangle 37 Patrick McDonough 38 Katharine Eggleston GoTriangle 39 Lauren Horsch Herald Sun 40 Jewish Federation of D-CH Lisa Brachman Jewish Federation of D-CH 41 Nancy Gordon 42 **Philip Singer** Jewish Federation of D-CH 43 Alfred Cassidy Kerr Tar COG

NCDOT-TPB

Chair Mark Kleinschmidt called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and the Roll Call was conducted.

Ethics Reminder

Chair Mark Kleinschmidt read the Ethics Reminder for Board members and asked Board members if there are any known conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the Board. Chair Mark Kleinschmidt requested Board members state any known conflicts of interest.

There were no conflicts of interest stated by the Board members.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

There were adjustments to the agenda. There was a request to add a D-O LRT project update from GoTriangle. The requested agenda item will be added after the consent agenda.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Directives to Staff

The Directives to Staff are attached for review.

May 13, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

Ellen Reckhow would like to clarify two items in the May 13, 2015, MPO Board Meeting minutes as follows: page 5, lines 118 about wanting to revisit the LRT routes and dusting off the plan. This would be in reference to the 54 Corridor for the LRT. She would still like to educate the public; however, her comment should be represented in the minutes as the MPO should educate the public on decisions that have been made along the NC 54 corridor related to the D-O LRT. Ellen Reckhow stated that lines 210 and 211 on page 8 referenced that she would write a letter on behalf of the MPO Board in support of Grow America. Ellen Reckhow clarified that the minutes should state that MPO LPA staff should write a letter of support for Grow America on behalf of the MPO.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ellen Reckhow and seconded by Vice-Chair Diane Catotti to approve the
May 13, 2015, MPO Board Meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

D-O LRT DEIS Update

Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle

Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle provided a presentation to the MPO Board about the status of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project. Patrick McDonough expressed that he knows that many of the people on the Board are getting a lot of emails and so are the people in his department about the D-O LRT project. One of the key things that he wanted to share was regarding the preliminary locally preferred alternatives (LPA) that was recently transmitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Patrick McDonough brought along with him Katherine Eggleston, GoTriangle Engineer, and Tammy

Bouchelle, GoTriangle Assistant General Counsel, to help answer questions. Patrick McDonough stated that he has also been working on trying to understand some legal issues surrounding the proposed Cornwallis and Farrington ROMF site.

Patrick McDonough stated that he was instructed by Chair Mark Kleinschmidt to review older project information as quickly as possible and to focus GoTriangle's time on presenting new information. He will focus on the recommendations for Preliminary NEPA Preferred Alternative and the next steps for the MPO Board and GoTriangle. Patrick McDonough elaborated that he has presented to the MPO Board on the five key decisions before. The five key decisions are (1) Duke/VA Medical Center Station (2) New Hope Creek Crossing (3) Little Creek Crossing (4) Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility Site and (5) Build or No Build decision. The original location for the Duke Station was the Fulton location. However, Duke and the VA Center asked that GoTriangle look at another location in order to keep down the traffic congestion. The recommended alternative location is the Trent-Flowers location. This site is now the preliminary alternative site and Duke and VA Center agree that this would be a superior location for traffic. The site

would dove- tail well with Duke's plans for expansion. Duke and the VA Center intend to grow towards this intersection and see this as an opportunity to have their land-use planning incorporate the transit station.

They are already working on a bike path from the area around Duke Chapel toward this location, so they see a lot of opportunity and so does GoTriangle.

Patrick McDonough discussed the key decision for New Hope Creek Crossing alternatives. At the request of the community and including members from the New Hope Creek advisory committee,

GoTriangle added NHC 1 alternative and NHC 2 alternative. The NHC LPA introduces a new transportation corridor through NHC bottomlands. The NHC 1 costs more & impacts more businesses than NHC LPA and NHC 2. The NHC 1 and NHC 2 impact fewer public park lands than NHC LPA. The NHC 2 has fewer environmental impacts than NHC LPA and fewer business impacts than NHC 1. After analyzing the alternatives, Patrick McDonough stated that the recommendation for Preliminary NEPA Preferred Alternative recommendation was made for the NHC 2 alternative.

Patrick McDonough outlined alternatives and the recommendation for the Little Creek area near the Orange County and Chapel Hill border. He heard concerns from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the residents regarding the prior proposed alternatives C1 and C2. The USACE asked if alternatives could be generated that did not touch their Federal-controlled land around Little Creek, so a C1A alternative was created. Patrick McDonough also heard from residents requesting an alternative that would not go through Meadowmont Lane, so a CA2 alternative was created. Patrick McDonough discussed the alternatives as follows: C1 Eliminated – USACE will not authorize use of Federal property "given the availability of less damaging alternatives." C1A has (1) longest travel time and lowest ridership (2) most expensive to build and operate (3) Impacts two public parks. C2 (1) carries 700 more daily riders than C1A. (2) costs for C2 are similar to C2A and less than C1A. (3) requires more displacements than C1A and C2A. The final alternative C2A has (1) fastest travel time and carries 1,000 more daily riders than C1A (2) cost

similar to C2 and less than C1A (3) the least impacts to public park land. Patrick McDonough stated that the recommendations for Preliminary NEPA Preferred Alternative for Little Creek area will be C2A.

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Patrick McDonough provided details on what to expect from the preliminary Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility. He explained that the location would be used to store and maintain trains. The facility would house operations and maintenance staff. The operations and maintenance staff would include mechanics, operators, supervisors, dispatchers and administration. The facility would require fifteen to twenty-five acres. Most of the work on the vehicles would be performed indoors. Any major heavy maintenance activity would not be done onsite. The heavy work would be put on a truck and sent to a body shop to be maintenance because it would be too much for work a small starter fleet to handle. Patrick McDonough gave information on the five proposed ROMF sites. The first site is the Leigh Village site, which is near Farrington Road and I-40. It has one historic resource. The second site is Patterson Place, which only works with the NHC LPA. The third site is Alston Avenue. There are pros and cons for this site. The pro is that it does not require amendments to Durham's Future Land Use Map. There are significant cons. The cons are the acquisitions and displacements of two single-family residences, six commercial/industrial businesses (including Brenntag Southeast and Eastern Carolina Organics), the potential to displace existing jobs from neighborhood, two high risk HAZMAT sites and eight medium risk HAZMAT sites and the additional authorization required from NCRR east of Alston Ave, which is not subject to the current agreement on the alignment. The cost of the project would be \$96 - \$145 million dollars. Patrick McDonough stated that there is some opposition from public and various stakeholders such as Brenntag, NCRR, PAC 1 and the EPA. Patrick McDonough stated that GoTriangle is recommending that the Alston Avenue site not be carried forward because of the concerns and challenges of displacement and losses.

Patrick McDonough discussed the Cornwallis Road preliminary Rail Operations and Maintenance
Facility site. It is located near the Pepsi plant and the Jewish Community Center. The pros include that this

site would not require an amendment to Durham's Future Land Use Map. The cons are that it precludes JCC Expansion and perceived impacts to existing Federation facilities. It also has ongoing O&M issues with aerial special track work and squeezed yard layout. There are issues to work through such as: (1) acquisitions and displacements (2) One medium risk HAZMAT site (3) water resource mitigation (4) coordination with NCDOT and City on relocation of Western Bypass (5) coordination with C/A Committee on US 15-501 control of access. The cost range is \$74 -\$111 million.

Patrick McDonough discussed the pros and cons of the proposed Farrington Road site in comparison with the Cornwallis Road site. The pros related to the Farrington Road site are that there are no Hazmat sites and that the site allows optimal operational track layout. The cons for the Farrington site are as follows: (1) may require amendment to Durham's Future Land Use Map (2) relocation of existing sanitary sewer. Patrick McDonough also stated that there are some items that still need to be worked through. GoTriangle would still have to work through acquisitions and displacements of 6 single-family residences, one cell tower (coordination with utility may avoid displacement), water resource mitigation and coordination with NCDOT on I-40 control of access. The cost ranges from \$62 – \$93 million. Analyzing the summary of cost, schedule, risks and impacts, GoTriangle's current recommendation would be for either the Cornwallis or Farrington site.

Patrick McDonough discussed the ROMF next steps that include taking a tour of the Charlotte facility with elected officials and staff. Patrick McDonough is working with Charlotte's transit team to come up with good dates to visit the Charlotte facility. He also discussed plans to meet with the citizens near the Cornwallis and Farrington sites to answer questions and to share what the site would look like and how the site would impact nearby residents. He said that GoTriangle is still coordinating with the Planning staff on land use and zoning issues, coordinating with US Army Corps of Engineers on water resources impacts and mitigation and coordinating with NCDOT for the Cornwallis and Farrington sites.

There was a question from the floor as to when did GoTriangle plan to meet with the citizens located near the Cornwallis Road site? Partners from GoTriangle replied that the meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2015 from 4:30pm - 6:00pm at the Jewish Judea Center. Another question from the floor was if GoTriangle has met with the five folks that will be displaced. Patrick McDonough confirmed that all property owners have been contacted through a variety of means. A Board member requested that GoTriangle invite members of the Chapel Hill Town Council to visit the Charlotte facility, a lot of residents will ask the Council questions. A Board member asked why GoTriangle presented two ROMF sites when the Farrington site would be the better of the two. Patrick McDonough explained that there are other issues that impact their decisions. He gave the example of the USACE and other sources that are also working behind the scenes and they may have reasons to deny the Farrington Site based on things that may be unknown to the project team. That is why two sites were brought forward. Another question from the Board was what process was used to notify citizens? Patrick McDonough stated that GoTriangle notified citizens by using individual letters, water bills, advertising public meetings, webinars and the internet. The next question asked was has anyone actually spoken to the six property owners at the Farrington site or have they decided that this is just another government notice? Are they going to be surprised that someone is coming around to develop their property? Patrick McDonough answered that he has not been able to attend any of the property owners meetings, however he has been in contact with Curtis Booker. Patrick McDonough stated that Curtis Booker is one of the significant land owners and that he has been included in detailed conversations regarding the Farrington site. Patrick McDonough stated that Curtis Booker has shared his cell tower lease with GoTriangle to help them understand the impact if the cell tower has to be relocated. Patrick McDonough stated that in the Farrington Road site area there is a good on the ground citizen network and one of the primary land owners have been in regular contact with GoTriangle and he has attended almost every meeting. GoTriangle reiterated the ways that they are contacting the citizens and parties involved in the project area. GoTriangle also stated that they would start hand

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delivering notices door to door this week. A request came from the Board to provide a better map of the project for the next meeting and for a video to be done of the Charlotte ROMF Facility to show to people as to what to expect from this project.

Patrick McDonough discussed the next steps for Public Involvement. He stated that GoTriangle has reached out and engaged over 5,500 people in meetings so far. Patrick McDonough stated that for the most part, GoTriangle has been going to people's meetings rather than having standalone meetings, but GoTriangle still has had several big public meetings. Patrick McDonough stated that the key is 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS in the early fall. GoTriangle will respond to all comments received during this time. Responses to comments will be included in the Final EIS and will be evaluated for responsiveness by the Federal Transit Administration. Responses to comments may include commitments for mitigation measures and or further study during the Engineering phase. For example, with C2A there would be further detailed study of safety, traffic, and access at intersections along NC 54 during the Engineering phase to ensure design of crossings is as safe and convenient as possible.

Patrick McDonough stated that the next steps for the MPO Board are in September / October 2015.

The MPO may choose to receive public comment at Policy Board meetings in concert with GoTriangle public hearings. GoTriangle would ask to the maximum degree possible that that period be concurrent with the 45-day public comment period for the DEIS. The MPO Board must vote to endorse the NEPA Preferred Alternative no later than November 2015 Board meeting.

Patrick McDonough reviewed the C2A Alignment chart near Downing Creek with the Board. He explained that the train would interact in the community environment. The train would not be going at its highest speed. He also reviewed the selected traffic counts with the AM Peaks and LRT Alignment. The trains are smaller trains and should move through quickly. Tammy Bouchelle stated that a website is available to show the maps of general locations, the comments received, and responses that have been logged and received to date. The public is able to interact in real time with the website.

Avenue. GoTriangle evaluated options to keep station located to the east of Alston Avenue. The railroad track requirement is the major driving factor for the changes but there other changes as well. The other substantial site constraints that make the eastern station location infeasible include: the new station Pettigrew Street Bridge (NCDOT constructing a new bridge), NC 147 interchange (close proximity to Pettigrew Street limits ability to shift the LRT line south), the City Water Tower (Tower, pump house), and new line Parking Deck (minimum deck size still doesn't fit operational constraints with single track). The constraints of the eastern Alston Avenue station site made it clear that it would no longer be feasible for the LRT Railroad Tracks requirements and that an alternative location would be needed. Katherine Eggleston stated that an engineering study was conducted to find a feasible proposed location on the western side of Alston Avenue near Murphy Street. The study that was done for the eastern station location will be documented, as well as why a new location, west of Alston Avenue, was considered.

7. FY2016-2017 CMAQ Call for Projects

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart briefed the MPO Board on the MPO Technical Committee discussion about the CMAQ Call for Projects for FY2016-2017. Lindsay stated that in 2011 the MPO Board approved priorities for the NCDOT CMAQ Call for Projects for CMAQ Funding for FY2016-2017. The approved projects were submitted to NCDOT but were never programmed into the STIP or TIP. She handed out attachments with the agenda items. Lindsay Smart stated that when the draft FY2016-2025 STIP came out, the MPO Board submitted a letter to the NCDOT in February 2015, requesting that the NCDOT rerelease a CMAQ Call for Projects for FY2016-2017, because the projects that were submitted in 2011 were never programed into the STIP. Lindsay Smart referred to the handouts of the 2011 priorities and the funding amounts. The handout includes the top nine priorities and the proposed funding schedule for each one. The MPO Board had enough funding to fully or partially fund the first eight projects and project number nine (Carrboro High

School Multi-Use Path) remained an unfunded priority project. In 2011, the jurisdictions worked with the MPO LPA to submit CMAQ project applications for the priority projects. The applications were submitted in 2011 after the resolutions were approved by the MPO Board. The funding amounts have changed since the original 2011 estimates. Lindsay Smarted noted that she is not sure why there is a difference in the estimates and she has no clarification from NCDOT. The Technical Committee reviewed the priorities that were shown in the attachments and their recommendation is for the MPO Board to approve the priorities and funding amounts as presented in the handouts. With that short of a timeline, the MPO TC stated that the MPO should maintain the same priorities and process from 2011 and recommended approval of the removal of the three City of Durham sidewalk projects because the projects are located near the D-O LRT stations and portions of the sidewalk projects will be accomplished through the D-O LRT project. The City of Durham Public Works Department also reviewed the cost of those projects and said that pursuing CMAQ funds is not the most efficient way to get those projects done. So the three sidewalk projects were removed. Lindsay Smart stated that the Technical Committee reviewed the priorities from 2011 and recommended that the Carrboro Downtown Multi-use Path Project, the GoDurham bus replacement, the Chapel Hill Transit bus replacement, and the Carrboro Jones Creek Greenway project receive funding. They recommended that the Carrboro High School Multi-use Path project remain on the list of priorities as an unfunded priority.

Damon Seils made motion to approve the project list described in the handouts including the approval of the request from GoDurham and Chapel Hill Transit to purchase three diesel buses instead of the two hybrid buses each. Vice-Chair Diane Catotti seconded the motion to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

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8. FY2016-2025 TIP Development

259 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

Lindsay Smart briefed the MPO Board on the MPO Technical Committee discussion about the NCDOT draft FY2016-2025 TIP. The NCDOT BOT approved the STIP on June 4, 2015. Lindsay Smart stated that there were changes made to the STIP between the draft STIP and the adopted STIP. The MPO's draft TIP has been updated to reflect those changes. The 2016 and 2017 CMAQ projects were not included in the draft TIP, but the will be added now that the MPO Board has approved them. The MPO Technical Committee was able to review the draft FY2016-2025 TIP and discuss project schedules and descriptions. Revisions were provided to the MPO LPA staff. The MPO TC recommended that the MPO Board review the draft FY 2016-2025 TIP and approve the TIP to be released for public review and comment. Questions from the Technical Committee on several projects and consistency between the TIP and STIP have been submitted to NCDOT and FHWA for clarification. Updates may be made to the draft FY2016-2025 TIP once responses from NCDOT and FHWA have been received.

Vice-Chair Diane Catotti made motion to approve the draft TIP be released for public comment until July 31, 2015. Steve Schewel seconded the motion to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

9. 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment and Conformity Determination Report Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart briefed the MPO Board on the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Amendment and Conformity Determination Report. The Technical Committee recommended that the Board release the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment and Conformity

Determination Report for a public comment period that will last until July 31, 2015 and then conduct a public hearing at the August MPO Board Meeting. Lindsay Smart stated that the FY2016-2025

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) must be a subset of the 2040 Metropolitan

Transportation Plan (MTP). In order to maintain this relationship, some MTIP projects will need to be added to the 2040 MTP and several 2040 MTIP projects will need to have the air quality threshold year, cost,

project length or other data adjusted to match the FY2016-2025 MTIP. The proposed additions and changes to the 2040 MTP are listed in the attachment.

Lindsay Smart stated that federal regulations require that the MPO approve a Conformity

Determination Report (CDR) for the amended 2040 MTP and the FY 2016-2025 MTIP. The CDR will be a short form because the MPO is not required to complete a corresponding regional emission analysis.

Damon Seils made motion to release the 2040 MTP Amendment and CDR for public review and comment. Vice-Chair Diane Catotti seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

291 <u>REPORTS:</u>

10. Report from the Board Chair Mark Kleinschmidt, Board Chair

There were no reports from the MPO Board Chair.

11. Report from the Technical Committee Chair Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair

Technical Committee Chair Mark Ahrendsen wanted to publicly recognize the excellent summary of findings from the recent FHWA and FTA Certification Review of the MPO. The preliminary summary of findings were very positive and a huge improvement over previous Certification Reviews. Mark Ahrendsen stated that Felix would discuss the Review in more detail.

12. Report from LPA Staff (Attachment 2015-06-10 LPA Staff) = Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko reported that the MPO had a successful Certification Review on Thursday, May 21, 2015, and Friday, May 22, 2015. The Review followed the usual process and had a closeout session. There were no corrective actions (first for the DCHC MPO and very rare nationwide). He summarized the recommendations and commendations that were noted by FHWA and FTA during the preliminary report. There were five commendations. They were as followings: (1) Environmental Justice (EJ) Report. (2) Interactive Website & funding database (project tracking) – "very impressive" (3) Great relationship and

collaboration between the MPO and transit operators. (4) Increased cooperation with NCDOT (improved from last certification). (5) Statewide and inter-agency coordination on air quality process. There were ten recommendations. They were as follows: (1) Freight Advisory Committee – involve freight community and providers in the MPO planning process. (2) Provide linkage between freight and economic development.

Need national attention on freight. (3) Focus on efficient movement of people and Freight - Interstate

Highways are important for the movement of people and good –"don't forget highways." (4) Engage

Environmental Justice (EJ) community leaders. (5) Consider mapping and evaluating specific minority races individually in future EJ reports. (6) Consider including two additional EJ analyses (performance targets and Benefits/burdens by project types). (7) Make Title VI more conspicuous. (8) MPO and NCDOT work to resolve project selection issues with STI process. (9) Develop an enhanced methodology for measuring the effectiveness of the MPO public involvement. (10) Improve lack of on-going coordination in development of environmental documents.

Felix Nwoko stated that based on the overall findings, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the DCHC MPO TMA substantially meets the Federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until May 2019.

In summary, the DCHC MPO staff, TC staff members, and Board members were commended for their commitment in working together to ensure that the products of the transportation planning process are serving the citizens of the urbanized area. Overall, it was a successful review.

13. NCDOT Report (Attachment 2015-06-10 NCDOT Progress Report.pdf)

Joey Hopkins (Brandon Jones) Division 5 –NCDOT stated that the SPOT 4.0 workgroup recommendations have been approved by NCDOT. The workgroup consists of twenty four appointed representatives from around the state. The workgroup took no official vote on any of the recommended

changes to the SPOT process. Instead, they reached a consensus. One recommendation is that the weight of local input points should stay 50/50 with the Division and MPOs or RPOs. NCDOT SPOT office has decided to reduce projects in the database by 25%. There are three Division 5 projects to report on. 1) The U-3308 (Alston Avenue) road widening will be delayed due to design change and utility issues. The delay will change from July 2015 to February 2016. 2) Project U-0071 (East End Connector) is 10% complete. 3) U-4716 (Hopson Road) Grade Separation is almost complete. It is 95% complete. The NCDOT is on track to get the reimbursement from the Railroad.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there were not updates from Division 7 and asked the MPO Board if the Board had any questions on specific projects.

Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 8, stated that projects are moving along and asked the MPO Board if the Board had any questions on specific projects.

Julie Bollinger, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch – No report was provided.

Kelly Becker, NCDOT Traffic Operations – No report was provided.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

14. Letter from Resident of Downing Creek Neighborhood about the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project Alternatives. (Dated May 17, 2015)

The letter is attached for review.

15. Recent News Articles and Updates

The letter is attached for review.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2015 at 9 a.m. in the Committee Conference Room.