

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

25 January 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on January 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Ellen Beckmann (TC Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (TC Vice Chair)	Hillsborough Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Kayla Seibel (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Terry Bellamy (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham /GoDurham
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Max Bushell (Member)	Orange County Planning
Cara Coppola (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Julie Bollinger (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kelly Becker (Member)	NCDOT, Traffic Operations
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Bryan Poole (Alternate)	City of Durham Transportation
Mary Jane Nirdlinger (Alternate)	Chapel Hill Planning
Lisa Jemison (Alternate)	Research Triangle Foundation
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
John Tallmadge	GoTriangle
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO

Quorum Count: 24 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in, using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Aaron Cain requested that agenda item 5, Approval of Amendment #7 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Action Items. Aaron Cain stated that an item on SPOT P5.0 would be added at the end of the agenda. He also requested that agenda item 11, Status of Durham and Orange Bus and Rail Investment Plan Updates, be moved to the beginning of the meeting in order to allow John Tallmadge to leave the meeting in a timely fashion.

Felix Nwoko discussed a handout pertaining to the development of performance targets for transit operators, and the timeframe for developing these performance targets.

3. Public Comments

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of December 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there was any discussion on the December 21, 2016 meeting minutes. There was no discussion of the December meeting minutes. John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the December 21, 2016 meeting minutes. Max Bushell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Approval of Amendment #7 to the FY 2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain reviewed the contents of Amendment #7 to the FY 2016 -25 TIP.

Pierre Osei-Owusu asked whether the GoTriangle project was the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) project, and Aaron Cain informed him that it was not.

Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that she noticed that the state was adding projects that scored well in prioritization and that are in the draft STIP for the purposes of starting planning and environmental studies.

Geoff Green made a motion to approve Amendment #7 to the FY 2016-25 TIP. Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Election of Technical Committee Officers for 2017

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG

Max Bushell, Orange County

At the December TC meeting, a nominating committee, consisting of John-Hodges Copple, Max Bushell, Kumar Neppalli, and Geoff Green, recommended Ellen Beckmann for TC Chair and Margaret Hauth for TC Vice-Chair. No other nominations were put forward at that time.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to elect Ellen Beckmann as TC Chair and Margaret Hauth as TC Vice Chair. Max Bushell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Draft FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that other than a few minor grammatical corrections, no changes were made since the TC last saw the UPWP. Meg Scully discussed two projects that will likely be added to the UPWP at a later date, a US 15-501 corridor study and an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project. She stated that the details of these projects are still being worked out and they will likely be presented to the TC in March 2017.

Felix Nwoko stated that the ITS project was a regional one, and that it would be completed in conjunction with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and GoTriangle.

Bergen Watterson and Meg Scully discussed the schedule for the upcoming public hearing.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Meg Scully discussed how the two additional projects might affect local funding. Meg Scully stated that these projects would have no impact on the local match required for the FY 18 UPWP. Felix Nwoko confirmed that no local match was required, and described the cost of and funding sources for the ITS project. Meg Scully, Andy Henry, and Felix Nwoko discussed whether the US 15-501 study would require a local match.

Pierre Osei-Owusu asked for and received clarification about Local Planning Agency (LPA) unused funds. Max Bushell asked for and received clarification about how decisions about LPA unused funds are made.

Chair Ellen Beckmann described the parameters of the US 15-501 corridor study.

Geoff Green made a motion to approve the FY18 UPWP and to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. CMAQ Applications for FY 2018-19

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Eleven Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) applications were submitted by local jurisdictions and agencies by the deadline of December 16, 2016. One late submittal was received from Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) for its Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program. Since not all projects can be funded, the LPA Staff has performed an analysis to help guide the selection of projects that will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Aaron Cain discussed the number of applications that were received, including the late application from TJCOG. He requested that a subcommittee meet to help determine which applications should be forwarded.

Pierre Osei-Owusu asked whether those who submitted applications could be on the subcommittee, and Aaron Cain confirmed that they could participate.

Aaron Cain discussed the timeline for bringing the list of chosen projects before the TC and the MPO Board. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested that members who submitted an application attend the subcommittee meeting in order to answer any questions that may arise.

There was discussion of whether Eddie Dancausse could perform a preliminary review of the applications before they are submitted to the state. John Hodges-Copple asked that those reviewing the applications consider whether the proposed project is eligible for CMAQ funding, and whether certain kinds of questions are typically raised for certain kinds of projects. Aaron Cain reminded the TC members that they were to have ensured that projects were eligible for CMAQ funding prior to submitting their applications. Eddie Dancausse agreed to review the CMAQ applications before the subcommittee meeting.

Max Bushell and Dale McKeel discussed the application for the Durham bike share-project. Chair Ellen Beckmann clarified that bike-share operations are not eligible for CMAQ funds, though capital expenses are eligible.

Pierre Osei-Owusu and Eddie Dancausse discussed whether the state may be able to provide unused CMAQ funds, as has occurred in the past. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that in the past, projects were put in ranked order in case extra funding became available. Aaron Cain stated that projects could be placed in ranked order this time around. John Hodges-Copple discussed the two components of CMAQ funding.

Eddie Dancausse stated that questions about CMAQ funding should be directed to Heather Hildebrandt at NCDOT.

Aaron Cain suggested holding the subcommittee meeting after the February 8, 2017 MPO Board meeting.

Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to accept TJCOG's late application and to convene a CMAQ subcommittee. Kumar Neppalli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) -- Public Input

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Julie Bollinger, NCDOT

The MPO Board released the draft CTP at its December meeting for a three-month public input process. The MPO advertised the CTP public input opportunity in local newspapers, on an email list, and via social media. Andy Henry reviewed the schedule for upcoming CTP presentations to local boards and commissions, elected officials, and citizen workshops.

Max Bushell discussed the Orange Unified Transportation (OUT) Board's feedback on the CTP presentation, and its promise to provide more detailed feedback on the CTP.

Andy Henry reviewed the results of recent presentations. Andy Henry and Cara Coppola discussed feedback received from the Chatham Transportation Advisory Committee.

Andy Henry discussed the nature of the comments he has received to date. Andy Henry promised to compile these comments and provide a 1-page summary of comments for his presentation to the MPO Board.

Andy Henry recommended moving the MPO Board's adoption of the CTP from March to April so that staff would have more time to complete work on the CTP. Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that County Transit Plans are also scheduled for approval at the April MPO Board meeting, and that it would be an action-packed meeting. Andy Henry stated that he would update the MPO Board in March so that there would be no surprises at the April meeting. Andy Henry stated that he would work with the jurisdictions to make sure they were in agreement about the CTP.

Felix Nwoko inquired whether there were any disagreements between the MPO and NCDOT on the CTP. Andy Henry stated that there were not any, especially now that the MPO has agreed to use 4-lane streets with narrow medians instead of 5-lane streets.

Hannah Jacobson asked for and received clarification about the date of the Durham meeting.
Bergen Watterson asked for and received clarification about how Orange County staff would provide input for the CTP.

Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested that the staff meet after the public comment period. Chair Ellen Beckmann confirmed that the public hearing on the draft CTP would occur at the February MPO Board meeting.

Hannah Jacobson made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board conduct a draft CTP public hearing. Pierre Osei-Owusu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Comments on Draft FY2018-2026 STIP
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

The draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was released on December 22, 2016. LPA Staff has set up a meeting with NCDOT to review the draft STIP on March 8, 2017, following the MPO Board meeting. Aaron Cain requested that a subcommittee convene to prepare comments and questions for the meeting with NCDOT.

Max Bushell suggested that Aaron Cain send out a Doodle Poll to determine the date of the subcommittee meeting.

Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested that subcommittee members review the comments from previous meetings to prepare for the subcommittee meeting.

Felix Nwoko stated that this may be an opportunity to review unresolved issues in the STIP from previous years.

Aaron Cain stated that he was working on a document that compares the current STIP with the draft FY 18-27 STIP, and that he would circulate it as soon as it is available.

Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that scheduling projects is quite important when it comes to the STIP. She noted that projects scheduled in the first five years are committed projects, and that she was disappointed that the NC 54 project keeps being reprioritized.

John Hodges-Copple and Max Bushell discussed projects that get stuck in the developmental stage, and how these kinds of projects get counted against the MPO even as they fail to materialize.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain asked members to prepare their questions and comments in advance of the subcommittee meeting. Aaron Cain stated that he would accept comments and questions in advance of the subcommittee meetings.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the recommendations of the subcommittee would come back to the TC in February.

This item was informational and no further action was required by the TC.

11. Status of Durham and Orange Bus and Rail Investment Plan Updates

John Tallmadge, GoTriangle

John Tallmadge discussed reasons for updating the Bus and Rail Investments Plans (BRIPs), and a timeline for updating the plans and taking the plans to local governing boards. John Tallmadge also highlighted key issues that will be addressed by the updates, namely the state legislature's 10% cap on rail projects, the increased cost of the Chapel Hill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, and funding for the commuter rail between Durham and Raleigh.

Felix Nwoko suggested moving the March TC meeting from March 22 to March 29 so that the TC would have adequate time to review the updated plans, which are scheduled for completion on March 27, 2017.

Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that the public comment period ends on March 13, and public comments would be available even if the March TC meeting is not rescheduled.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Tallmadge discussed the number of staff working group meetings that would occur between the close of the public comment period and completion of the plans.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Tallmadge discussed the schedule for meeting with governing boards.

John Hodges-Copple recommended reserving the City Council Meeting Room for a BRIP subcommittee meeting on March 22, 2017.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to reschedule the March TC meeting on March 29. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Tallmadge stated that he would review key issues in the draft plan, and not just comments that have been received, at the February TC meeting.

12. SPOT P5.0

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Felix Nwoko stated that the schedule for Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization 5.0 (SPOT P5.0) is available. Felix Nwoko called attention to the June 26, 2017 deadline for entering projects, and highlighted the dates of upcoming NCDOT webinars. Felix Nwoko discussed past attempts to develop alternative criteria for regional projects, and emphasized the fact that all MPOs and divisions must agree to any proposed alternative criteria. Felix Nwoko also reviewed the definition of a committed project.

Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested using the SPOT P5.0 deadlines to develop an internal schedule of meetings. Chair Ellen Beckman discussed the attempts of rural areas to develop alternate criteria for regional projects. Felix Nwoko discussed DCHC MPO's attempts to develop alternate criteria during the SPOT P4.0 process.

John Hodges-Copple suggested that the MPO track how scoring is being developed for SPOT P5.0.

There was discussion about proactively approaching CAMPO about developing alternate criteria for regional projects. There was additional discussion of other MPOs, RPOs, and divisions that might support alternative criteria for regional projects.

John Hodges-Copple discussed issues that arise when scoring projects that straddle two jurisdictions.

Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that she has only heard about alternative criteria for regional projects in the context of highway projects. Chair Ellen Beckmann inquired whether the LPA Staff receives meeting minutes and agendas from the workgroup at the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (NCAMPO), and whether they respond to requests for comments.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Geoff Green discussed whether he would be willing to continue his work on comparing the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project to scoring criteria.

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for regular updates about workgroup decisions on fixed guideway projects.

Max Bushell and John Hodges-Copple discussed whether the webinars might provide an opportunity for specific discussions with NCDOT staff.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed the implications of the increased number of submittals allowed in SPOT P5.0. There was discussion of the inconsistencies in the scaling of projects, particularly fixed guideway projects.

Bergen Watterson and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether each jurisdiction would only be allowed to submit a limited number of projects. Chair Ellen Beckmann, Vice Chair Margaret Hauth, and Dale McKeel discussed how allocating projects by jurisdiction was handled in past rounds of SPOT prioritization.

Geoff Green discussed how projects carried over from SPOT P4.0 may be counted in SPOT P5.0.

Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed the next steps in this process.

This item was informational and no further action was required by the TC.

REPORTS:

13. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that interviews for the NC 54 west corridor study are scheduled for February 9, 2017. In response to a question from Geoff Green, Felix Nwoko stated that a contract has been signed for the managed lane study and that he was preparing for the kick-off meeting for the project.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that a few items were out of date in the staff report, and that the toll study and the NC 54 study should be added to the list of ongoing projects. She asked the LPA Staff to make needed updates for the next TC meeting.

14. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair
Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

There was no report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair.

15. NCDOT Reports

David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated that he had no additional report but that he wanted to provide clarification about a question that was asked earlier in the meeting. David Keilson discussed the benefits of programming projects in the second half of the STIP.

Max Bushell and Richard Hancock discussed what happens when projects fall out of the developmental program. Chair Ellen Beckmann cited the I-40 widening in Orange County as an example of such a project. Max Bushell and Vice Chair Margaret Hauth discussed the status of a previously funded project on Churton Street.

Scott Whiteman asked about a project at Vickers and Lakewood, which is supposed to be let in January. Kelly Becker stated that this is a safety project that primarily involves minor signal modifications.

There was no report from NCDOT Division 7.

There was no report from NCDOT Division 8.

There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

16. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

293 There were no informational items.

294 ADJOURNMENT:

295 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was

296 adjourned at 10:38 a.m.