

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

29 March 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on March 29, 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 (Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (Vice Chair)	Hillsborough Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Terry Bellamy (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Theo Letman (Member)	Orange County Transportation
Peter Murphy (Alternate)	Orange County Transportation
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
Alison Carpenter (Member)	Duke University
Julie Bollinger (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Lisa Miller (Alternate)	Durham City-County Planning
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Patrick Wilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Brian Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Patrick McDonough (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
Than Austin	UNC

Quorum Count: 21 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:02 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.

Theo Letman introduced himself as the new TC Member for Orange County, and Peter Murphy stated that he was now the Alternate Voting Member for Orange County.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.

Felix Nwoko reminded the TC about the deadline for submitting transit performance measures and targets to the MPO in order to fulfill a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirement. Felix Nwoko stated that an item about submitting new projects would be added to the end of the agenda.

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 February 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there was any discussion on the February 22, 2017, TC meeting minutes. Ed Lewis requested that the language regarding North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Reports be adjusted to indicate that a report was included in the packet, and that there were no questions and comments during the meeting. Tom Altieri made a motion to approve the February 22, 2017, TC minutes as amended. Cara Coppola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that this resolution was a routine request to transfer Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to the FTA.

Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve and sign the resolution to transfer FHWA funds to the FTA. Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #2

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Amendment #2 of the FY2017 UPWP proposes to re-allocate, de-obligate, and obligate Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds. Meg Scully called attention to two attachments, the resolution to be signed and a memo that described each jurisdiction's requested changes.

Meg Scully and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the STBG funds were existing funds and the deadline for the call for projects.

Max Bushell made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY2017 UPWP Amendment #2. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Revision to Approved FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

On February 8, 2017, the MPO Board approved the FY2018 UPWP. At that time, Lead Planning Agency (LPA) Staff described two projects, an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project and the US 15-501 corridor study, which were to be added to the FY2018 UPWP once the scope, cost, and funding partners for each project was defined. Meg Scully called attention to a memo which described changes to the UPWP.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the revisions to the FY2018 UPWP and sign the resolution. Max Bushell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Progress Report on Updates to County Transit Plans

John Tallmadge, GoTriangle

John Tallmadge stated that the Bus and Rail Investment Plans would now be known as the County Transit Plans. He discussed the reasons and goals for each of the original plans, the implementation of each plan, and the effect of changes to local, state, and federal funding on each plan.

In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, John Tallmadge confirmed that Chapel Hill Transit has implemented 23, 700 revenue hours.

John Tallmadge discussed the Durham-Orange cost sharing agreement needed to fund the local share of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Project (D-O LRT). John Tallmadge and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed what the cost sharing split between Durham and Orange counties would need to be in order to fund the commuter rail project. John Tallmadge and Alison Carpenter discussed whether the increased cost of the Chapel Hill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project would lead to a projected downturn for Orange County.

John Hodges-Copple and John Tallmadge discussed the possible effects of a cost share split that would leave Orange County in the red.

John Tallmadge stated that the need to connect light rail stations in 2029 would lead to higher demand for transit service. Patrick McDonough explained how GoTriangle arrived at the projected rail dividend hours in response to an inquiry from John Hodges-Copple.

John Tallmadge reviewed measures, such as cost cutting and pursuing land donations, which will be evaluated to mitigate possible overruns for the D-O LRT project.

Max Bushell, John Tallmadge, and Patrick McDonough discussed whether GoTriangle has accounted for a scenario of lower state funding. John Tallmadge and Felix Nwoko discussed whether there was a scenario that considered the impact of a lack of agreement between the United States Congress and the president on the budget, particularly regarding the New Starts program. In response to Felix Nwoko's question, Patrick McDonough clarified that feeder buses are not different from local buses in the updated plans.

John Hodges-Copple and John Tallmadge discussed job growth assumptions in the County Transit Plans.

Alison Carpenter and John Tallmadge discussed the service hours that were replaced with the ½ cent sales tax funding. There was discussion of whether Durham would be subsidizing Orange County's plan and whether the cost sharing agreement is based on fairness or ability to pay. There was discussion of factors that shaped the past cost sharing agreement.

Tina Moon inquired whether future plans might take Durham's subsidy of Orange County into consideration and provide an opportunity for Orange County to gradually reimburse Durham County.

John Tallmadge stated that the updates to the plan would be revisited on a more regular basis by staff working groups, and that the MPO is considering funding a part-time position to administer the staff working groups.

John Tallmadge reviewed the schedule for public hearings and approving the updates to the County Transit Plans. Aaron Cain reminded the TC that the MPO Board would be holding a special meeting to approve the County Transit Plans at 9 a.m. on April 28, 2017. In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, John Tallmadge clarified that the MPO Board would be approving updates to each plan but was not party to the actual cost sharing agreement. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that local jurisdictions would be affected by the cost sharing agreement, even if they are not parties to it. Chair Ellen Beckmann confirmed the MPO schedule for approving updates to the County Transit Plans.

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

9. Proposed Modifications and Deletions for SPOT 5.0

Felix Nwoko and Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

The MPO is required to submit any revisions, modifications, or deletions to existing projects for consideration in the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization 5.0 (SPOT P5.0) by June 16, 2017. Aaron Cain drew attention to attached list of changes from local jurisdictions. Aaron Cain stated that he would like to receive all modifications and deletions by April 17, 2017.

Chair Ellen Beckmann outlined reasons for deleting the US 15-501 project.

John Hodges-Copple reminded the TC that having a project scored through the SPOT process does not guarantee that the project will be programmed. John Hodges-Copple suggested that the MPO write a letter to NCDOT to formally resolve this issue. Chair Ellen Beckmann provided examples of projects that would be affected by the scoring/programming debate.

There was discussion of keeping the NC 54 operational improvement project from Orange Grove Road to Old Fayetteville Road in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and removing the NC 54 widening project.

Aaron Cain stated that the schedule for SPOT P5.0, the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), and the draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) review are running concurrently. Aaron Cain reviewed the schedule for submitting projects to SPOT P5.0. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that projects were not due to NCDOT until September 2017, and that the summer would be used to score and modify projects using the MPO's model. Aaron Cain confirmed that the MPO Board would be asked to approve more projects that can be submitted and to grant the MPO flexibility to submit the projects that have scored best using the MPO's model. Aaron Cain stated that he did not have any information on when the MPO would receive information on pre-submitted projects. Aaron Cain promised to provide the TC with a list of carry over and holding tank projects for each jurisdiction. There was discussion of the ways in which the MTIP should match the STIP, and the deadline for matching the STIP to the MTIP.

Tina Moon inquired whether there would be changes in NCDOT scoring criteria that might allow holding tank projects to score better this time around. Aaron Cain stated that although the requirements for highway projects seem to be the same, he was unsure about requirements for other types of projects.

There was discussion of whether the MPO and NCDOT Divisions needed to agree on modifications and deletions, and the separate deadlines for modifying projects and submitting new projects.

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

10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) -- Final

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Julie Bogle, NCDOT

The MPO Board received an update on the draft CTP at their March 2017 meeting and a summary of the comments that have been received. Andy Henry stated that proposed changes to the draft CTP maps have been made and provided instructions on how to access the updated maps.

Andy Henry clarified that the public hearing for the CTP has already occurred. At their April meeting, the TC will recommend that the MPO Board approve the CTP at the May MPO Board meeting. Felix Nwoko stated that new North Carolina Transportation Secretary, James H. Trogdon III, and FHWA administrator, John Sullivan, have been invited to the April 12, 2017, MPO Board meeting. The LPA Staff is therefore trying to have a limited agenda for the April MPO Board meeting. Andy Henry stated that his update to the MPO Board would be brief.

In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Andy Henry stated that the interchange at Southwest Durham Drive would not be eliminated.

Cara Coppola asked that a note be added to the CTP to indicate that Chatham County provided feedback on the CTP.

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

11. Approval of Amendment #9 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Amendment #9 to the FY2016-25 TIP includes two requests from the City of Durham. The first changes the funding for EB-4707B, Old Chapel Hill/Old Durham Road Bike Lanes, to address increased cost estimates and the re-purposing of a federal earmark that was previously designated for the Duke

Belt Line project. The second is a request by NCDOT, through the City of Durham, to program a budget for the upgrade of the City's signal system. There are also five requested modifications and three deletions from NCDOT.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the City of Durham has successfully repurposed decade-old earmarked funds for the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road project, saving the MPO roughly \$2 million that can now be applied to other projects.

Laura Woods made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #9 to the FY2016-25 TIP. Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andy Henry pointed out that the April 26, 2017, TC meeting is scheduled for the same days as the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) conference and inquired whether there would be a quorum at the meeting. A show of hands indicated that there should be a quorum at the April 26, 2017, TC meeting.

REPORTS:

12. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that Transportation Secretary John Trogon III and the FHWA Administrator John Sullivan will be at the April 12, 2017, TC meeting.

Dale McKeel stated that the MPO has received a letter in response to inquiries made about bicycle facilities on Old NC 86. Dale McKeel stated that NCDOT clarified that "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signs are not consistent with North Carolina general statutes. The speed limit on the relevant portion of Old NC 86 has been lowered and new signs encouraging motorists to watch for cyclists have been added. Dale McKeel also provided details on the Bike and Pedestrian Workshop that is scheduled for April 7, 2017, in Cary.

Felix Nwoko drew attention to the MPO's draft Annual Report and asked the TC to provide comments. The final Annual Report will be posted on the MPO's website.

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

Chair Ellen Beckmann requested that upcoming deadlines relevant to staff be added to the TC agenda. Aaron Cain promised to work with Brian Rhodes to add these deadlines to the agenda as a recurring item.

14. NCDOT Reports

Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, stated that a report was included in the packet.

Richard Hancock and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed public meetings and alternatives that are being proposed for the U-5518 project, half of which is in Durham.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that a report was included in the packet. There were no questions or comments.

Brian Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that two EB projects would be deleted from the STIP in coordination with Chatham County. There was discussion of what would happen to the allocated funding for these projects. Cara Coppola explained why these projects were deleted.

There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

Felix Nwoko stated that Kelly Becker has transitioned from Traffic Operations. Her replacement to the TC has not yet been named.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

15. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

There were no informational items.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.