



DCHC MPO Board

Meeting Minutes

101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

9:00 AM

Committee Room
2nd Floor Durham City Hall

1. Roll Call

Some members arrived late. Mark Kleinschmidt called for a roll call of the board members to start the meeting at 9:15. Additional members arrived after roll call.

Present: Mark Kleinschmidt (Chair)

Diane Catotti (Vice Chair)

Steve Schewel

Ellen Reckhow

Jim Crawford

Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)

Bernadette Pelissier

Damon Seils

Ed Harrison

Barry Jacobs

Eric Hallman

Mark Arhendsen	City of Durham/ DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Eve Barkley	DCHC MPO
Stan Hutchens	DCHC MPO
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Linda Thomas Wallace	City of Durham
Joey Hopkins	NCDOT, Division 5
Brandon Jones	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis	NCDOT, Division 7
Darius Sturdivant	NCDOT, Division 8
Bret Martin	Orange County
Patrick McDonough	Triangle Transit
John Hodges-Copple	TJCOG
David Bonk	Town of Chapel Hill
Ray Bromberg	Herald-Sun
Donnie Brew	FHWA
Bergen Watterson	Town of Carrboro
Julie Bollinger	NCDOT-TPB
Doumit Ishak	NCDOT
Toni Glover	Durham County Cooperative Extension

2. Ethics Reminder

Mark Kleinschmidt asked board members if there were any known conflicts of interest at today's meeting with respect to items being brought before the Board.

No conflicts of interest were reported.

Diane Catotti reminded all board members that the State Ethics online form must be completed. Lindsay Smart said the due date, which is 'tax day,' is 15 April 2015.

Mark Kleinschmidt made a motion that Ellen Reckhow seconded to refer to the DCHC MPO Board, regarding the due date for the State Ethics forms (15 April 2015). The motion carried unanimously.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

Mark Kleinschmidt asked for any adjustment to the agenda for today.

Mark Ahrendsen pointed out additional items that would be mentioned during the course of the board meeting:

- 1) A notice of up-coming public information sessions for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP);
- 2) A summary of President Obama's 2016 budget request to Congress for the US Dept. of Transportation; and
- 3) Details of a bill in Congress (no H.R. number) called the Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act.

Mark Ahrendsen then reminded all board members of the meeting with DOT at 11:30am today, February 11, 2015.

4. Public Comments

Mark Kleinschmidt and Diane Catotti asked if anyone in the audience wanted to make a public comment during item #3 (Adjustments to the Agenda). No one was present to make a public comment.

5. Directives to Staff

Mark Kleinschmidt and Diane Catotti reminded all board members to consult directives.

This notice was taken as "received and filed" with the board members.

Mark Kleinschmidt made a motion and Diane Catotti seconded the motion to receive the Informational Report. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA (9:05 - 9:10)**6. January 14, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes**

Diane Catotti pointed out edits to line 88 (correct "mighty"), line 144 (missing a word) and line 174 (Add "Catotti" to Diane's first name).

Diane Catotti made a motion and Steve Schewel seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the stated corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS**7. US 15-501 Corridor Study Traffic Analysis Report (9:10 - 9:40)**

Christa Greene, Stantec

Christa Greene, PE, gave a presentation on the US15-501 corridor study, which extended from the junction with NC-54 in Orange County to the junction with US-64 in Chatham County.

Data was collected for over 25 intersections to determine the existing level of service (LOS), And they compared the current function to a conversion of US15-501 to 'super streets.' The project does not include a comprehensive, multi-modal study; it does not represent a traffic study for current or future development projects; and, it does not include recommendations for detailed lane configurations at intersections.

NC DOT widened this section of US 15-501, i.e., added two lanes, in 2005. The Corridor is seeing heavy, continued development and the impact of the proposed Chatham Park will be to inflate growth in the model.

The study compared traditional intersections and superstreets. Superstreets incorporate U-turns, thus allowing for only two traffic-light phases compared with eight phases for a traditional intersection thereby providing more "green time" to the vehicles on the main road. Cyclists and pedestrian typically wait on an island to cross superstreets.

The study concluded that northern section of corridor might need widening to achieve future LOS of D. Southern section should work well with only four lanes but some locations will need to be signalized as traffic counts grow and good access management policies will need to be continued.

NCDOT will send out an FTP site that has all the corridor study reports and presentations. Ed Harrison asked a link of these products on the FTP site be added to MPO website. Damon Seils asked how these analyses will be used as a planning tool by the MPO. Christa Greene answered that doesn't know how MPO will use it, but DOT will use these analyses to improve access points.

Damon Seils then asked about the limitations of analyses by not including multi-modal data. The only way to deal with new growth and development is to widen lanes, but this biases towards automobile access; disregarding other modes of transportation (i.e., buses, bikes, pedestrians).

Ed Harrison commented on how Town of Chapel Hill had looked at a "directional crossover" design for Glenn-Lennox area at US 15-501 / NC-54.

Mark Kleinschmidt pointed out that a new, full-movement intersection is being planned by the Town of Chapel Hill for US15-501 / Sumac and wondered how this would affect the corridor, given a full-movement intersection at US15-501 / Market St. Christa Greene stated that that section of the corridor would need to be studied as a whole, not as a single intersection.

Ellen Reckhow asked for examples in North Carolina of major streets or highways where a parallel bike path followed a road. Christa Greene mentioned a multiuse path along Glenwood in Raleigh that did not receive STI funding.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion and Steve Schewel seconded the motion to take this report. The motion carried unanimously.

Mark Kleinschmidt announced that he would have to leave in 20 minutes.

Diane Catotti made a motion to excuse Mr. Kleinschmidt and Steve Schewel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Draft FY2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Public

Hearing (9:40-9:50)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully introduced this item. Mark Kleinschmidt opened a public hearing. There was no one present to speak at the hearing, so Mark Kleinschmidt closed the public hearing. The FY2015-2016 UPWP will come back to the Board at their March meeting for approval.

Mr. Kleinschmidt left shortly after 10am. Diane Catotti chaired the meeting from this point forward.

9. Draft 2014 Environmental Justice Report Presentation (9:50-10:10)

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart presented the report. She met with FHWA staff at the end of January and the FHWA staff stated that the EJ report meets all their certification requirements.

Damon Seils pointed out that using block groups can be misleading because all the population might be in a corner of the block group. Lindsay Smart stated that smaller Census geographies with socioeconomic attributes, such as blocks, are not available. Diane Catotti asked if all of Chatham County attribute data was used or just the portion in the MPO. Lindsay Smart stated

that all of the county was used but that using just the MPO portion will be considered in a future update.

Ellen Reckhow pointed out that some of the block groups might have a low population or just one set of apartments representing the residential population that magnifies the presence of a poorer population. Steve Schewel suggested using the Neighborhood Compass as an overlay to check the data. Diane Catotti believed local boards and City Council would be interested in this report. Ed Harrison remarked on the benefits / burdens table and the use of the term "new roads" as being a benefit. The "new roads" can be seen as a benefit only in blocks that have a high number of motor vehicles. This excludes other modes of transport (i.e., buses and bicycles). Lindsay Smart commented that the term "new roads" would be more accurately and we can insert the MPO viewpoint in a future update.

Diane Catotti made a motion that Damon Seils seconded to release the draft Environmental Justice report for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Amendment #23 to FY2012-2018 TIP (10:10-10:15)

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart presented this item. No public comments had been received. Diane Catotti opened the public hearing. There were no speakers, so Diane Catotti closed the public hearing.

Diane Catotti asked for a motion to close the public hearing and put the amendment to a vote.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion and Damon Seils seconded the motion to approve Amendment #23. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Comments and Questions Memorandum for the Draft FY2016-2025 TIP

(10:15-10:40)

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart presented a memorandum that has the proposed MPO comments on the draft FY2016-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). MPO board members and staff will meet with NCDOT staff today to review and discuss these comments.

Damon Seils commented that the code numbers for the US15-501 TIP project should be EB-5715, instead of UB-5715.

Ed Harrison stated that it is striking that all the TAP and SRTA (Safe Routes to Schools) funding is not allocated, referring to an included memorandum. Diane Catotti commented that citizens continue to complain about how long these projects seem to take in getting done.

Damon Seils, referring to EL-4828, would like to clarify how funding is to be allocated, based on the difficulty of construction or the particular segment of greenway currently being constructed. Lindsay Smart stated that this question will be posed at the NCDOT meeting today.

Steve Schewel wondered why the Duke Beltline project would be removed from TIP. Lindsay Smart explained that NCDOT saw no movement from the City of Durham and thus removed the

project from the FY12-18 STIP. She said this item can be addressed at the NCDOT meeting today. Steve Schewel asked if the funding was coming back into the FY16-25 STIP. Mark Ahrendsen stated that the City has a TIGER planning grant at this time. Diane Catotti asked if anyone from the City Manager's office would be at the meeting because they have more information on this project.

Damon Seils asked why the purchase of two Chapel Transit buses was in the STIP because he believed that these were already purchases. Lindsay Smart stated that staff would clarify this issue.

Lydia Lavelle and Damon Seils asked for any opportunity for additional funds for the Jones Creek project. Lindsay Smart stated that staff would check on this item.

Barry Jacobs asked that any comments on the US70 Bypass bridge be sent to Commissioner Pelissier and him, including those comments submitted in past years.

Damon Seils thought this was a sidewalk project. Mr. Seils believes the design phase for the South Greensboro Street project should be 2015 and the construction phase will then be 2017.

Damon Seils asked that the Greensboro Street / Estes Drive intersection improvement include other improvements on Estes Drive Extension. He also asked about the placeholder cost numbers. Mark Ahrendsen stated that these standard values are used until more detailed design characteristics are known.

Diane Catotti asked why some of the Durham area bike and pedestrian projects were being pushed back at a time when the City is asking for increased sidewalk funding. Lindsay Smart stated that Engineering requested this schedule. Mark Ahrendsen stated that the City will have an internal discussion before asking to delay these projects.

Lydia Lavelle made a Motion and Eric Hallman seconded the motion to accept memorandum with the noted changes.

REPORTS:

12. Report from the Board Chair

Mark Kleinschmidt, Board Chair

Mark Kleinschmidt had to leave early so there was no report from the Board Chair.

13. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair

Mark Ahrendsen stated that every four years there is a federal certification of MPO planning processes and the DCHC MPO will go through certification this spring. As a result, the MPO will possibly host FHWA at the April or May board meeting.

14. Report from LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko commented that the Web site was up and running. Mr. Nwoko added that there were some hiccups with the website in City Hall, due to the firewall, and these problems were being worked on. Mr. Nwoko also asked all board members to review the Web site and provide your comments to staff.

Dale McKeel referred to an NCDOT-funded study along the American Tobacco Trail (ATT) that is an assessment of before-and-after the I-40 bridge completion. This report identified several positive economic health and transportation impacts of the ATT. Mr. McKeel will make sure board members have access to the study.

Mr. McKeel further commented that every year CAMPO and DCHC put on a bicycle-pedestrian workshop. This year's workshop is the 27th of February. He will send out the information to the board. The workshop runs from 8am to noon, at the new Health Dept. building. Afterwards, there is a lunch and an optional bike ride and tour through Durham.

15. NCDOT Report

Joey Hopkins (Battle Whitley), Division 5 - NCDOT

Mike Mills (Pat Wilson), Division 7 - NCDOT

Rob Stone (Darius Sturdivant), Division 8 - NCDOT

Julie Bollinger, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT

Kelly Becker, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

Joey Hopkins introduced Brandon Jones as the new Deputy Division Engineer and alternate TC member of Division 5.

Work will start on the End-end Connector February 23, 2015. NCDOT has received a City of Durham request to conduct a ground-breaking ceremony and is working on that item.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, identified two public outreach meetings. One is on March 23rd in the west office campus building Hillsborough (next to library). The other is in Greensboro on March 26th at DOT Division 7 offices (Yanceyville St).

The Jones Ferry Road / Davie Street project is 20% complete, but they are still seeking some funding. NCDOT will have an update at the next TC meeting.

The Jack Bennett project is moving forward. There is a spot safety study for NC 751 where there is a southbound left turn onto New Hope Church Road.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

16. Recent News Articles and Updates

No recent news articles or updates were discussed, as the board meeting was running into the time for the Priority Review Meeting with the NCDOT.

17. Additional Handouts

Adjourn

Diane Catotti reiterated the date and time of the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

Next meeting: March 11, 2015, 9 a.m., Committee Room

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings:

February 11, 2015, 11:30 a.m. -

Priority Review Meeting for draft TIP with NCDOT.

Committee Room, City Hall.