

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**March 8, 2023**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on March 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the second floor Committee Room at Durham City Hall, as well as through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Karen Howard (Vice Chair)	Chatham County
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Javiera Caballero (Member)	City of Durham
Leonardo Williams (Member)	City of Durham
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Danny Nowell (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Camille Berry (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Sally Greene (Alternate)*	Orange County
Lisa Mathis (Alternate)*	N.C. Board of Transportation
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi*	Orange County
Tom Altieri*	Orange County
Brandon Dawson*	Chatham County
Bergen Watterson*	Town of Chapel Hill
Josh Mayo*	Town of Chapel Hill
Caroline Dwyer*	Town of Chapel Hill
Tina Moon*	Town of Carrboro
Matt Efird*	Town of Hillsborough
Sean Egan*	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Evian Patterson*	City of Durham
Tom Devlin*	City of Durham
Eric Vitale	City of Durham
Erin Convery*	City of Durham
Brian Taylor*	City of Durham
Matt Day*	Triangle J Council of Governments
Meg Scully*	GoTriangle
Jay Heikes*	GoTriangle
Cha'ssem Anderson*	The University of North Carolina
Tracy Parrot	NCDOT Division 5
Pat Wilson*	NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson*	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar*	NCDOT Division 8
Jeron Monroe*	NCDOT Division 8

44	Julie Bogle*	NCDOT TPD
45	Nick Morrison*	NCDOT IMD
46	Julie White*	NCDOT
47	Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration
48	Adam Howell*	Atkins
49	Shelby Powell	Capital Area MPO (CAMPO)
50	Chris Lukasina*	Capital Area MPO (CAMPO)
51	Ryan Brumfield	NCDOT IMD
52	Jason Orthner	NCDOT Rail Division
53	Meredith Van Duyn*	Mott MacDonald
54	Heidi Perov*	Resident
55	Jacob Rigg*	Regional Transportation Alliance
56	Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
57	Kelly Fomenko	DCHC MPO
58	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
59	Dale McKeel*	DCHC MPO
60	David Miller	DCHC MPO
61	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO

62 Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members  
 63 \*Attended remotely

#### 64 **1. Roll Call**

65 Vice Chair Karen Howard called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The roll call was completed  
 66 using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom participant list for remote attendees. Vice  
 67 Chair Karen Howard requested the Board consider excused absences for Chair Jenn Weaver and Damon  
 68 Seils. Jamezetta Bedford made motion to approve excused absences for Chair Jenn Weaver and Damon  
 69 Seils. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 70 **PRELIMINARIES:**

#### 71 **2. Ethics Reminder**

72 Vice Chair Karen Howard referenced the Ethics Reminder included in the agenda packet.

#### 73 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Vice Chair Karen Howard recommended that information item 13 (S-Line Presentation) move up as item 8A, that action item 9 (Orange County Interlocal Agreement) move up as item 8B, and that action item Item 12A (DCHC + TJCOG agreement for employees) be added to the agenda.

Michael Parker made a motion to accept these adjustments to the agenda. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### **5. Approval of the February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

David Miller, LPA Staff

##### **6. City of Durham Letter of Support Request for Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Grant Application**

Evian Patterson, City of Durham

##### **7. Amendment #14 to the FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

##### **8A. S-Line Presentation**

Jason T. Orthner, Rail Division Director, NCDOT

Jason Orthner shared the NCDOT Rail Division mission and scope, its types of passenger rail service, ridership statistics from 2018 to 2022, its operations throughout North Carolina, and the Division's Corridor Identification Program Opportunities. Jason Orthner presented the background of the S-Line project, project grant awards, population density statistics and the regional benefits the project is working to meet. Jason Orthner shared the project's next steps, and mentioned that letters of support for the S-Line project are encouraged and can accompany funding applications. Jason Orthner

shared that Siemens Mobility will be creating an advanced manufacturing and rail services center in Lexington.

Wendy Jacobs asked how the S-Line project could help move the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) project forward, and Jason Orthner replied that there are elements of the S-Line project, including infrastructure improvements, that could support commuter rail service.

Wendy Jacobs made a motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign a letter of support for the Rail Division's grant applications on behalf of the MPO Board. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **8B. Orange County Interlocal Agreement**

**Adam Howell, Atkins**

Adam Howell provided an update on the Orange County Interlocal Agreement (ILA), shared updates to the Transit Governance ILA based on feedback received, shared updates pertaining to – and an outline of – the Comprehensive Participation Agreement (CPA), and next steps in the adoption process. Ellen Beckmann stated that the Durham County ILA is identical to Orange County's ILA, and expects to receive approval from the Durham Board of Commissioners on March 13.

Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to adopt the Orange County Transit Program Interlocal Agreement. Vice Chair Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **8. FY2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program**

**David Miller, LPA Staff**

David Miller stated that the FY2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was released for public comment on February 8, but no comments have been received. David Miller stated the remaining timeline for the FY2024 UPWP adoption process. Vice Chair Karen Howard called the public hearing to be open. No comments were received. Vice Chair Karen Howard closed the public hearing.

Wendy Jacobs requested that information pertaining to administrative costs based on the MPO's transition to Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) be included in the FY2024 UPWP, and Doug Plachcinski replied that while this information is still be determined, it will be included.

**10. FY24 Call for Projects - Recommended Projects for Funding**  
**Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff**

Kelly Fomenko shared and highlighted the eleven comments that were received as part of the FY24 call for projects. Wendy Jacobs asked if intersections that have received public comment can be addressed as part of any funded projects, and Doug Plachcinski replied that the MPO's Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program presents an opportunity to do so. Bill Judge added that the City of Durham has funds to improve pedestrian crossings in the area that the public comment is referencing, and that the project is currently in the design phase.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the FY24 Call for Projects recommended projects and authorize submission of recommended CMAQ projects to NCDOT. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap**  
**Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff**

Kelly Fomenko shared the FY2024-2033 STIP Swap process. Kelly Fomenko stated that six projects are being considered for swapping in, and three projects are being considered for swapping out. Kelly Fomenko stated that twenty-seven comments have been received during the public comment period. Michael Parker stated that GoTriangle would like to request that bicycle, pedestrian and transit opportunities be considered as part of projects along NC 54 and I-40, as well as infrastructure that can accommodate Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the recommended STIP swaps. Leonardo Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**12A. DCHC and TJCOG Agreement for Employees**  
**Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**

Doug Plachcinski presented an agreement between the City of Durham and TJCOG that would allow reimbursement of staff costs between the two agencies at an audited and approved rate, and would provide support for the MPO's UPWP task areas directly. Doug Plachcinski stated that this process would cut down on staff time devoted to onboarding new MPO employees at the City of Durham, and then at TJCOG. Doug Plachcinski stated that TJCOG has executed their side of the agreement.

Leonardo Williams made a motion to approve the DCHC and TJCOG Agreement for Employees. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**12. Request to Establish a Commuter Rail Working Group**  
**Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**

Doug Plachcinski stated that CAMPO has formed a working group consisting of its Board members to discuss commuter rail within the region and have asked DCHC MPO to do the same. The Board selected Michael Parker, Sally Greene, Javiera Caballero, Chair Jenn Weaver, Damon Seils and Wendy Jacobs as DCHC MPO's representatives.

Leonardo Williams made a motion to establish a commuter rail working group. Javiera Caballero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**14. Bus Rapid Transit Western Extension**  
**Shelby Powell, CAMPO**

Shelby Powell presented the background of the Wake Bus Rapid Transit project, the project's funding, a map of the western and southern extension study areas, engagement activities, and details about the western extension alternatives that were developed. Shelby Powell shared the next steps in the project, which included analyses, modeling forecasts, additional funding needs, and studies regarding operations.

**15. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update - Study Area and Corridor**  
**Yanping Zhang, LPA Staff**

Yanping Zhang shared the eight steps that are part of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and stated that the presentation will focus on the second step: study areas and corridors. Yanping Zhang said that the study area and MPO boundaries are based on U.S. Census data, and that the 2020 U.S. Census data was released on December 2022. Yanping Zhang shared a visual representation of this new data and revised boundaries, the corridor list and transit routes for study within the 2023 CMP.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **16. Report from the Board Chair** **Jenn Weaver, Board Chair**

Vice Chair Karen Howard had no items to report.

##### **17. Report from the Technical Committee Chair** **Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair**

Nishith Trivedi stated that public engagement activities have been scheduled for both the US- 70 multimodal corridor study and Annual Work Programs for both Durham and Orange counties.

##### **18. Report from LPA Staff** **Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**

Doug Plachcinski reminded Board members to file their annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) and Real Estate Disclosure (RED) forms. Doug Plachcinski stated that a Board and TC meeting may need to be held in June and July due to items requiring a vote.

##### **19. NCDOT Reports** **Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

Lisa Mathis updated the Board on the N.C. Clean Transportation Plan, NCDOT outreach DBE meetings, and the Spring Litter Sweep program.

##### **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT**

Tracy Parrot provided an update on the Alston Avenue project.

##### **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 the NCDOT IMD Multimodal Planning Grant Program application process is open through April 10.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

**20. Recent News Articles and Updates**

Vice Chair Karen Howard referenced the recent news articles and updates.

**21. 15-501 Modernization and I-40 Interchange TIP Project U-6067 Update Letter to NCDOT**

Vice Chair Karen Howard referenced the letter to NCDOT.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.