

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

May 24, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on May 24th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room at the Durham Administration Building II, as well as through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Nishith Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann (Chair)	Durham County
Tina Moon (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Tom Devlin (Member)	City of Durham
Miles Spann (Member)	City of Durham
Eric Vitale (Member)	City of Durham
Jeff Lecky (Alternate)	City of Durham
Aaron Cain (Member)	Durham County
Brandi Minor	Durham County
Brandon Nelson	Durham County
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Josh Mayo (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Caroline Dwyer (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Jay Heikes (Member)	GoTriangle
Paul Black*	GoTriangle
Julie Bogle (Member) *	NCDOT TPD
Matt Day (Member)	TJCOG
Evian Patterson *	City of Durham
Matt Efird	Town of Hillsborough
Stephen Robinson (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 7
Nishant Shah	NCDOT Division 7
Tracy Parrott (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 5
Jeron Monroe*	NCDOT Division 8
Bryan Kluchar*	NCDOT Division 8
Nick Morrison*	NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division
Adam Howell	Atkins Consulting
Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
David Miller	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel*	DCHC MPO
Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
Kelly Fomenko	DCHC MPO
Colleen McGue	DCHC MPO
Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
Jean Debnam	DCHC MPO

44 Quorum count: 18 of 22 voting members
45 *Attended remotely

46 Chair Nishith Trivedi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

47 **PRELIMINARIES:**

48 **1. Roll Call**

49 The roll call was completed using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom
50 participant list for remote attendees.

51 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

52 Chair Nishith Trivedi asked for adjustments to the agenda. Doug Plachcinski asked to
53 add Item 7B (COVID Funding Swap with NCDOT). Hearing no concerns, it was added to the
54 agenda.

55 **3. Public Comments**

56 There were no public comments.

57 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

58 **4. Approval April 26th, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**
59 **Jean Debnam, LPA Staff**

60 **5. FFY 2023 UPWP Amendment #3**
David Miller, LPA Staff

61 Jay Heikes made a motion to recommend the TC approve the Consent Agenda. Aaron
62 Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

63 **ACTION ITEMS:**

64 **6. Durham County Transit Plan (15 Minutes)**
65 **Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transit Manager**
66 **Aaron Cain, Durham County**

67 Ellen Beckmann gave an update on the Final Durham County Transit Plan. Ms.
68 Beckmann referenced the May 8th Public Hearing at which they received a lot of comments, and
69 they are included in the appendix of the final report. Ellen summarized the changes to the plan.
70 “Commuter Rail” was changed throughout the plan to “Quick Reliable Regional Transportation

Connection". The financial model was not changed. At the request to the Board of Commissioners, Durham County Transit (DCT) added some language about pursuing FRA and NCDOT funding incremental inner-city passenger/freight rail improvements as a potential strategy for commuter rail. DCT added additional description of Bus Rapid Transit in the Unfunded Section. DCT added a description of how to fund Electric Buses and Fare Free Transit through the Transit Plan, federal, local, and/or other funding sources. DCT enhanced the Implementation and Performance Metrics section. Aaron Cain made a motion to approve the Durham Transit Plan. Caroline Dwyer seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

7. Durham and Orange County Transit Governance Study (15 Minutes)

Adam Howell, ATKINS Consulting Group

Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transit Manager

Nishith Trivedi, Orange County Transportation Director

Ellen Beckmann provided the background information of the Governance Study. Adam Howell reminded the Technical Committee of the Durham and Orange County the Governance Study Accomplishments since 2021. Mr. Howell also covered the Comprehensive Participation Agreement (CPA); the Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM); and the Road to CPA and PPM Adoption. The Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) includes the Financial Policies and Procedures, the Work Program Amendment Policies, and the Staff Working Group (SWG) Bylaws and Operating Procedures. Ellen Beckmann made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Participation Agreements and the Policy and Procedures Manual. Aaron Cain seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

7b. DCHCMPO COVID Relief Funding 5-19-23 (10 Minutes)

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, MPO Executive

Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Doug Plachcinski briefly introduced Item 7B. He stated the federal government, in their negotiations, may include a provision that puts unobligated Federal Highway COVID funding through rescission. Presently the MPO has around 2 million in unobligated COVID funding. The

MPO board is recommending a swap with NCDOT to swap out COVID funds (BGDACV) for STI local discretionary funds such as STBGDA. Kelly Fomenko said the MPO started out with \$2.3 million in COVID funds and presently has about \$1.9 million of those funds that are not yet obligated. Unobligated funds may be rescinded in the near future. NCDOT has recommended moving funds to I-3306A, and we would receive STI funds dollar for dollar. The MPO is looking for a recommendation to do the swap because COVID funds are 100 percent federally funded compared to an 80/20 split and that would cause an issue for local funding. Six projects would be impacted.

Tina Moon asked about the deadline, and Kelly said there is no guarantee that this would happen but there is a possibility a decision could be made by June 1. Further discussion was made regarding other projects to swap. Matt Efird made a motion to pursue the swap with full investigation of alternatives. Aaron Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

8. Agenda Item Submission Form (5 minutes)

Filmon Fishastion, LPA Staff

Filmon stated the DCHC MPO is changing how we compile agendas. The DCHC MPO is introducing a form that agencies may use should they wish to have items on either the Technical Committee Agenda or MPO Board Agenda. We are asking that agencies use the DCHC MPO Agenda Item Submission Form 2023 which will be located on the DCHC website. Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if the MPO was seeking agenda items from jurisdictions instead of doing it themselves. Filmon answered, if need be. MPO is doing our own agenda items but if an outside agency wants to submit an item they can.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

09. Report from Staff

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski stated he was continuing to support the local agencies who are continuing to apply for grant funding. He is moving forward with the development of the scope of SS4A with the intent of hiring a consultant. Mr. Plachcinski welcomed Colleen McGue in person.

13. Report from the Technical Committee Chair
Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair

Nishith had no additional report other than the announcement of Orange County hired a new planning manager.

14. NCDOT Reports
Brandon Jones (Tracy Parrott), Division 5 – NCDOT

Tracy Parrott had no additional report.

Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT

Stephen Robinson highlighted two of the LAP projects; U246 -Homestead Rd sidewalk project. The bid openings were well over the engineers. For the UB-5721 has been advertised and will be open on June 8, 2023. Stephen introduced Nishant Shah as the new Division 7 Corridor Development Engineer and on the call is Chad Reimakoski the new Division 7 Division Planning Engineer.

Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar, Jeron Monroe), Division 8 - NCDOT

Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT

Julie Bogle had no additional report.

John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT

John had no additional report.

Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT/Integrated Mobility Division

149 Nick stated the applications for the multi-model planning grant close May 1, 2023. And
150 12 applications are being presented to the Board of Transportation at their June meeting.
151 approval. There was no additional report.

152 **15. Recent News and Articles and Updates**

153 Chair Nishith Trivedi referenced the recent news articles and updates attached to the
154 agenda packet

155 **Adjourn**

156 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Nishith Trivedi at
157 10.03 am.