

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on February 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, located on the first floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Nish Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County Planning
Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Kayla Seibel (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Jomar Pastorelle (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Zach Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Brooke Ganser (Member)	Durham County Planning
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Jay Heikes (Member)	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka (Member)	University of North Carolina
Bill Judge (Alternate)	City of Durham
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Bryan Kluchar (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Katharine Eggleston (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO/City of Durham
Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
DeAngelo Gonzalez	NCDOT
Cy Stober	Mebane
Patrick McDonough	HDR
Cha'ssem Anderson	UNC

Quorum Count: 24 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Nish Trivedi reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of January 22, 2020, Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion of the Consent Agenda.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jay Heikes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #2
Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the DCHC MPO is required by federal regulations to prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. Felix Nwoko added that the UPWP identifies MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds. Felix Nwoko continued that the UPWP budget requires an amendment approved by the MPO Board, and Amendment #2 of the FY2020 UPWP proposes to de-obligate a portion of Planning (PL) funds programmed for the Triangle Bikeway Study development.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #2. Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Revision to Approved FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program
Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO Board approved the FY2021 UPWP on February 17, 2020. Felix Nwoko stated that this revision is necessary to incorporate carryover funds from FY20 UPWP Amendment #2. Felix Nwoko added that the revised FY2021 UPWP includes resolutions and Title VI Assurance supporting the proposed revision to the FY2021 UPWP. John Hodges-Copple and Felix Nwoko discussed the use of the de-obligated \$18,000 of funding.

Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the revision and accompanying resolutions. Jomar Pastorelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Memorandum of Understanding for Next Phase of Study on Commuter Rail Transit
Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Jay Heikes stated that Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) is in the current Durham and Wake County Transit Plans. Jay Heikes presented variations of the proposed routes for the CRT and the proposed additional routes for buses and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Wake County.

Jay Heikes stated that the CRT study contains planning level analysis, which includes capital, operating, and maintenance costs. Jay Heikes stated that the CRT study also investigated the range of ridership per Federal Transit Administration (FTA) criteria. Jay Heikes discussed eligibility for partial federal funding. Jay Heikes discussed amending the Durham County Transit Plan to include funding for further phases of the CRT study. Jay Heikes discussed that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would need to be signed for stakeholders, including: the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR), North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), GoTriangle, Wake County Board of County Commissioners,

Durham County Board of County Commissioners, DCHC MPO, and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). Jay Heikes discussed the cost sharing agreement for the next phase of study in the MOU between Wake and Durham counties with the possibility of Johnston County joining. Jay Heikes identified risk management as part of the next phase of the study and the processes to evaluate, identify, and mitigate those risks.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Katharine Eggleston discussed how funding from Johnston County is determined. Katharine Eggleston stated that the funding is not a scientific determination, but it will be an incremental cost.

Jay Heikes stated that the next phase of study will last approximately 18 months and will focus on local engagement with municipalities, stakeholders, and the community. Jay Heikes discussed the importance of defining infrastructure needs, especially in the railroad corridor. Jay Heikes stated that if the MOU is signed in March 2020, then it would have an execution date no later than April 15, 2020. Jay Heikes stated that the next phase of study would address agreements for cost sharing.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the MOU mentions state maintained railroad crossings, but local railroad crossings are not mentioned. Katharine Eggleston stated that the MOU does not intend to bind any entity that is not party to the MOU, which includes municipalities. Katharine Eggleston added that further agreements will be drafted in the next phase of study. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DOLRT) project had issues due to unclear agreements between stakeholders. Katharine Eggleston stated that, following the signing of the MOU, there would be a 60-day period where stakeholders would be engaged to develop a cooperative agreement. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Katharine Eggleston discussed adding language in the MOU to reflect later cost sharing agreements. Jay Heikes added that the MOU is not a legally binding document.

118 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if the stakeholder engagement is the responsibility of the
119 GoTriangle. Katharine Eggleston and Jay Heikes responded that stakeholder engagement is the
120 responsibility of the project sponsor in close coordination with the local plan updates. There was
121 discussion about a previous community engagement event.

122 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that there were members of the community who were
123 concerned about how the project management of the DOLRT project would differ from that of the CRT
124 project. Jay Heikes responded that the MOU for the CRT project is different from than that for the
125 DOLRT. Jay Heikes added that the risk mitigation plan is also more robust for the CRT project. Jay Heikes
126 continued that there are other key checkpoints and checks and balances that are proposed in the next
127 phase of the project. Katharine Eggleston added that the NCRR Board has also been routinely working
128 with the GoTriangle team. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Katharine Eggleston also discussed that the
129 involvement of Norfolk Southern and CSX has been ongoing. Katharine Eggleston added that there is a
130 term sheet that includes aspects such as an operating plan, infrastructure requirements,
131 indemnification, insurance requirements, access fees, etc. to be signed by the railroad partners by the
132 end of the next phase.

133 Chair Nish Trivedi and Katharine Eggleston discussed that Orange County is not included in the
134 MOU, but it will be considered for a future project phase. John Hodges-Copple discussed the importance
135 of accurately capturing the RTC modeling. Katharine Eggleston responded that that she has been
136 working closely with the rail division and that the RTC modeling is planned for Greensboro to Selma.
137 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Katharine Eggleston discussed that there are five proposed CRT stations
138 in Durham. Katharine Eggleston and Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed possible locations for train car
139 storage in Durham.

140 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend approval to the MPO Board of the GTCR MOU.
141 Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. FY20 Durham Transit Work Plan Amendment - CRT Study

Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that funds need to be programmed within the current fiscal year in order to move forward on the Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) study and continue the partnership that has been created with the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) and Norfolk Southern, which operates freight service in the NCRR corridor. Aaron Cain continued that GoTriangle has requested \$2.235M for the CRT study, which combined with previously programmed funds, will have Durham contribute \$2.7M of a total budget of \$9.2M for the next phase of study. Aaron Cain added that the Durham Staff Working Group (SWG) recommended approval of \$2.235M of additional funds as an amendment to the FY20 Work Plan on January 29, 2020.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve an additional \$2,235,000 for the next phase of study for commuter rail. Jomar Pastorelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjustment of TC Meeting Calendar

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that the TC Board Meeting is in conflict with the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning (NCAMPO) Conference on April 22, 2020. Aaron Cain proposed to change the date of the TC Board Meeting to April 29.

Bergen Waterson made a motion to approve to adjust the TC meeting calendar to move the April 22, 2020 meeting to April 29, 2020. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

10. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko discussed ongoing and future personnel changes for DCHC MPO staff. Felix Nwoko discussed the Transit Onboard Survey. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Jay Heikes discussed that the onboarding survey receives origin and destination information as well as demographic data. Jay Heikes and Felix Nwoko discussed that the timeline for the Transit Onboarding Survey would be in fall 2020.

Felix Nwoko stated that there are discussions about developing a Simplified Trips-on-Project Software (STOPS) model for the Triangle Region. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed that information from Streetlight data has been gathered and is in the process of being analyzed. Felix Nwoko and Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed that Leta Huntsinger is leaving WSP to take a new position at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) and is therefore going to once again be able to work with the MPO team on modeling projects. Felix Nwoko and Chair Nish Trivedi discussed that the results of the STOPS model can be incorporated into the Metropolitan Transportation Program (MTP). Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed that information gathered from the D-O LRT can be incorporated into the STOPS model. Jay Heikes added that elements of the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) are important to the STOPS model. Andy Henry and Jay Heikes discussed that the FTA requires the use of the STOPS model unless a local model can be developed and accepted by the FTA. John Hodges-Copple and Jay Heikes discussed the differences between the STOPS model and TRM.

11. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair

Chair Nish Trivedi stated that there is no further report from the TC Chair.

12. NCDOT Reports

David Keilson, Division 5, stated that there was no additional report. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and David Keilson discussed the status of reimbursement for projects that are on the NCDOT suspension list. There was discussion about discovering more information about the prioritization of project release from the NCDOT suspension list.

Stephen Robinson, Division 7, stated that the let date for the interchange improvements at I-40 and NC 86 (I-3306AC) has been changed to March 15, 2022, from October 2021. Stephen Robinson added that the I-40 widening from I-85 to NC 86 project (I-3306AA) let date has been moved to March 2023 from October 2022. There was discussion about further impacts to the scheduling of projects related to I-3306. Bergen Watterson and Stephen Robinson discussed additional public outreach for the final design for the I-40 and NC 86 interchange. Stephen Robinson stated that the Greensboro Road and Estes Drive roundabout project (U-5846) is delayed due to utility issues. Stephen Robinson stated that the Franklin Street Bridge project (DG00461) is progressing slowly.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that there is no additional report. Bryan Kluchar added that the Prioritization 6.0 comment period is closing soon, and comments can be submitted via the NCDOT.gov website.

Julie Bogle stated that the NC Moves 2050 Plan is currently in the future needs task of phase three, which included the needs assessment. Julie Bogle added that there is a handout for those who wish to learn more about the upcoming schedule of NC Moves.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

There was no discussion of the informational items.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.