

1 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

2 **MEETING MINUTES**

3 The Technical Committee met on January 28, 2015 at 9:06 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room

4 on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following attended:

5	**Mark Ahrendsen	City of Durham (TC Chair)
6	**Tom Altieri	Orange County
7	** David Bonk	Town of Chapel Hill (TC Vice-Chair)
8	**Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
9	**Julie Bollinger	NCDOT – TPB
10	Aaron Cain (Alternate)	Durham City/County Planning
11	**Alison Carpenter	Duke University
12	Ellis Cayton	RDU Airport Authority
13	**John Hodges-Copple	TJCOG
14	Toni Glover	Durham County Access
15	**Margaret Hauth	Orange County
16	**Hannah Jacobson	City of Durham Planning
17	**Tasha Johnson	City of Durham Planning
18	Brandon Jones (Alternate)	NCDOT-Division 5
19	Mike Kneis (Alternate)	NCDOT-Division 5
20	Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT – Division 7
21	Bill Marley	FHWA
22	**Bret Martin	Orange County
23	**Patrick McDonough	Triangle Transit
24	**Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
25	**Kumar Neppalli	Town of Chapel Hill
26	**Pierre Osei-Owusu	City of Durham Transportation
27	**Hilary Pace	Chatham County Planning
28	**Liz Rooks	Research Triangle Foundation
29	Bergen Watterson (Alternate)	Carrboro Planning
30	**Laura Woods	Durham County Planning
31	**Scott Whiteman	Durham County Planning
32		
33	Fatima Smith	Durham County Access
34		
35	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
36	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
37	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
38	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
39	Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
40	Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
41	Kosok Chae	DCHC MPO
42		
43	**Voting Member	
44	^Temporary or Non-Voting Member	

45 Quorum Count: 17 of 22 Voting Members

46

47 Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The Voting Members
48 and Alternates were identified and are indicated above.

49

PRELIMINARIES:

50 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

51 Mark Ahrendsen stated that there was one item related to Item #6. Lindsay Smart stated
52 that there was additional information from Secretary Foxx regarding the Mayor's Challenge. Mark
53 Ahrendsen stated that this information would be discussed after Item #9. Mark Ahrendsen asked
54 that everyone be sure to sign in for attendance recording purposes. Dale McKeel gave a brief
55 description and also provided a brochure titled *Bridging the Gap*.

56 **Public Comments**

57 Felix Nwoko welcomed Bergen Watterson, new Alternate representing the Town of
58 Carrboro. Ms. Watterson is their new transportation planner. Lindsay Smart stated that the Draft
59 STIP meeting location would not be at NCDOT and instead be located here in the Committee Room
60 on February 11, 2015.

61 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

62 **Approval of December 17, 2014 TC Meeting Minutes (Attachment 4)**

63 Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion to approve the December 17, 2014 TC minutes. A
64 motion was made by Margaret Hauth and seconded by Tom Altieri. The motion carried unanimously.

65

ACTION ITEMS:

66 **Draft FY2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Attachment 5**

67 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

68 Meg Scully stated that this is the third time that the TC has seen the draft. The action for
69 today is that the TC recommends that the Board hold a public hearing at its next meeting. Mark

70 Ahrendsen asked for a motion that the MPO Board hold a public hearing for the Draft UPWP at its
71 next meeting on February 11, 2015. A motion was made by Scott Whiteman and seconded by Tom
72 Altieri. The motion carried unanimously.

73 **6. Amendment #23 to FY2012-2018 TIP Attachment 6**

74 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

75 Lindsay Smart stated that no comments have been received on the TIP amendment. The only
76 change that has been made to the amendment is the addition of the four DATA projects. The
77 changes to the four DATA projects are changing funding from one year to the next. The action for
78 today is to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing at the February 11, 2015 meeting.

79 Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion for the Board to hold a public hearing. A motion was made by
80 Margaret Hauth and seconded by Pierre Owusu. The motion carried unanimously.

81 **7. Comments and Questions Memorandum for the Draft FY2016-2025 TIP Attachment 7**

82 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

83 Lindsay Smart stated this is a draft memo for the TC to review and provide comments. The
84 revised memo will then go before the Board for approval. Lindsay Smart stated that she compiled all
85 the notes from the subcommittee meeting. There is plenty of opportunity to discuss and requested
86 changes. Bret Martin suggested adding NEPA document development under the general comments
87 and questions in section #2. Under section #3 Bret Martin suggested adding “depending on whether
88 access to the station is provided in the scope of the station project, independently the Orange Grove
89 Road Project.” Bret Martin suggested adding a comment that states “the project needs to be moved
90 sooner than FY2023.” John Hodges-Copple stated that the Light Rail Project should be listed under
91 both Division 7 and Division 5 so that it is listed in both places. Margaret Hauth stated that the US 70
92 Bridge Project to the Eno State Park is a critical project. Margaret Hauth wanted to be sure that the
93 right people would be included in the scoping and discussion. There are needs for pedestrian access

94 in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. Margaret Hauth stated that she will send Lindsay Smart
95 additional information for this project that can be included in the memo.
96 Ellen Beckmann wanted to know the NCDOT issue with the Woodcraft Parkway extension. Is the
97 issue whether or not the project is eligible for funding, or whether the City of state would maintain
98 the extension. She wanted to know whether the bonus funds would go back to the City of Durham,
99 which contributed funding to the project, or Wake County, which is the project location. Lastly, there
100 is a large gap between the level of TAP funding that North Carolina receives and the level that is in
101 the TIP. She asked that NCDOT explain this gap.
102 David Bonk asked that NCDOT identify the amount of available CMAQ funding and state why the
103 MPO's CMAQ allocation does not go through to 2017 in the STIP. He also wanted to know why the
104 SRTS project was programmed so far into the future while the funding is available now.

105 **8. Community Visualization 2.0 Process Presentation (No Attachment)**

106 **John Hodges-Copple, Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG)**

107 John Hodges-Copple gave an update of the computerized, ESRI ArcGIS add- on for growth
108 allocations called Community Visualization. The first time growth allocations were used was for the
109 2040 Plan and updated growth allocations will be used for the 2045 plan. We are spending this year
110 updating the software tool. John Hodges-Copple stated that the suitability factor is one of the most
111 difficult pieces to update. A consultant and focus groups will help update the suitability factors. The
112 private sector focus group meeting will take place on Thursday, February 19, 2015. The public sector
113 meeting will be Friday, February 20, 2015. John Hodges-Copple stated that we should have a much
114 more flexible tool and be able to have more sensitivity of how random development would be
115 assigned. There will be more time to play around with the tool to see what makes sense. There has
116 been interest from water resource planners. David Bonk asked if the intention was to have regular
117 meetings for the project. John Hodges-Copple state that an every other Friday morning meeting is

118 planned. The meeting participation should broaden over time and participation from university folks
119 is welcomed. Mark Ahrendsen indicated that there was some type of recognition given. John Hodges-
120 Copple responded by stating that the NC Chapter of APA gave an award last time. He stated that
121 there should be software training sessions in the early fall for the 2.0 Version of Community
122 Visualization. David Bonk asked about any software updates. John Hodges-Copple stated that
123 Version 4 is out now and is the version that will be used. Hillary Pace wanted to know if the license
124 would be provided. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO will provide licenses.

125 **9. Draft 2014 Environmental Justice Report Presentation Attachment 9**

126 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

127 Lindsay Smart stated that this is a standalone report for the whole urbanized area. Lindsay
128 Smart thanked Hannah Jacobson for creating the report cover. Lindsay states that the population
129 numbers for the three-county area would be used as the regional benchmark for each demographic
130 group. The three-county average was used for the larger demographic threshold. John Hodges-
131 Copple suggests linking what we do on the transportation side to what we do in other areas.
132 Regardless of what we show it should be consistent and clear. Bret Martin suggested that we include
133 the disabled population. Lindsay Smart stated that MPO staff had hoped to include a disabled
134 persons demographic dataset but couldn't verify the data and faced time constraints. The MPO
135 hopes to include that data in the next EJ report. David Bonk suggested that we make it clear that this
136 information is county based. Lindsay Smart stated that in future years the area used as the regional
137 threshold can be changed. Lindsay Smart stated the study outcome can be used as a planning
138 prioritization tool for future transportation projects. Ed Lewis stated that the information can also be
139 used for public involvement and public outreach. David Bonk wanted to know how things would be
140 affected if the median income factor wasn't included. Lindsay Smart stated that she wasn't sure
141 exactly how the maps would change if a demographic indicator was removed. Lindsay Smart

142 assumed there would be fewer overlaps in the data. David Bonk said that he would think it would
143 have a significant impact. Bret Martin supported eliminating the median income factor all together.
144 Ellen Beckmann expressed concern some of the statistics being published could be misused in the
145 future. Lindsay Smart stated that comments can be provided by the MPO TC beginning today until
146 the end of the public comment period in March. Today the TC action is to recommend that the MPO
147 Board release the report for public review and comment. It has to be adopted by the MPO Board's
148 meeting date in April. David Bonk requested that the median income data be reconsidered before
149 the MPO Board releases the draft for public comment. Lindsay Smart stated that she will be meeting
150 with FHWA on Friday to review the entire draft report and consider the low-income dataset more
151 carefully. Lindsay Smart stated that she will provide an update on the outcome of the meeting with
152 FHWA. Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion for the MPO TC to recommend that the MPO Board
153 release this draft with an adjustment to the median income factor. John Hodges-Copple made a
154 motion for the MPO Board to release the document for public comment. Laura Woods seconded. The
155 motion carried. Ellen Beckmann opposed.

156 **Additional Item for Discussion-Mayor's Challenge**

157 David Bonk stated that Secretary Foxx released a statement reemphasizing eight goals that
158 were propagated back in 2010 by the former secretary. It focused on the need for bike and
159 pedestrian facilities to be incorporated into the design of roadways to make it a more integral part of
160 the investment process. The challenge was just issued last week and is still unclear as to what it
161 involves. It will focus on seven challenge areas, part of which is how monies are allocated. This is an
162 opportunity to see how we can help the state respond to the challenge. MPO Staff will further review
163 the details of the challenge. How will this impact the next TIP Process? There is a webinar on
164 February 10, 2015 regarding the challenge.

165 **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

166 **Reports from Staff (Attachment 10)**

167 Felix Nwoko states that the Triangle Regional Model base year is being calibrated. The final
168 Mobility Report Card is coming to the TC soon. The Travel Behavior Survey starts this year. David
169 Bonk asked about a transit survey in the fall. Felix Nwoko replied by saying that one would be
170 conducted at that time. TMA Certification Review is scheduled for April or early May. A
171 subcommittee will be formed to review reports from TMA. FHWA will send out a list of questions and
172 request for documents for their desk audit. MPO Staff should receive a schedule soon and will share
173 it with the Technical Committee.

174 **Report from the Chair (No attachment)**

175 There was no report from Chair.

176

177 **NCDOT Report Attachment 12**

178 Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division-7, stated that a public meeting will be held March 23, 2015
179 regarding the draft STIP. The meeting will take place from 4-7 pm located at the West Campus office
180 in Hillsborough, NC. Bill Marley, FHWA stated that he will send a schedule along with questions soon
181 regarding the TMA Certification Review. Bill Marley, FHWA will participate in the EJ Report review
182 that is scheduled for Friday, January 30th. Mike Kneis, NCDOT Division 5, introduced Brandon Jones,
183 the new Division 5 Deputy Division Engineer. Mike Kneis stated that the Alston Avenue Project is
184 delayed until July.

185 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

186 Wake County has shown interest in a commuter rail through their transit evaluation process.

187 **Adjournment**

188 There being no further business before the Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned
189 at 10:48 a.m.

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