

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

**Mark Ahrendsen	City of Durham (TC Chair)
**Tom Altieri	Orange County
**David Bonk	Town of Chapel Hill (TC Vice-Chair)
**Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
**Julie Bollinger	NCDOT – TPB
Aaron Cain (Alternate)	Durham City/County Planning
**Alison Carpenter	Duke University
Ellis Cayton	RDU Airport Authority
**John Hodges-Copple	TJCOG
Toni Glover	Durham County Access
**Margaret Hauth	Orange County
**Hannah Jacobson	City of Durham Planning
**Tasha Johnson	City of Durham Planning
Brandon Jones (Alternate)	NCDOT-Division 5
Mike Kneis (Alternate)	NCDOT-Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT – Division 7
Bill Marley	FHWA
**Bret Martin	Orange County
**Patrick McDonough	Triangle Transit
**Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
**Kumar Neppalli	Town of Chapel Hill
**Pierre Osei-Owusu	City of Durham Transportation
**Hilary Pace	Chatham County Planning
**Liz Rooks	Research Triangle Foundation
Bergen Watterson (Alternate)	Carrboro Planning
**Laura Woods	Durham County Planning
**Scott Whiteman	Durham County Planning
Fatima Smith	Durham County Access
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Kosok Chae	DCHC MPO
**Voting Member	
^Temporary or Non-Voting Member	

Quorum Count: 17 of 22 Voting Members

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

PRELIMINARIES:

Adjustments to the Agenda

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

Public Comments

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

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

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

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

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

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

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart stated that no comments have been received on the TIP amendment. The only change that has been made to the amendment is the addition of the four DATA projects. The changes to the four DATA projects are changing funding from one year to the next. The action for today is to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing at the February 11, 2015 meeting. Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion for the Board to hold a public hearing. A motion was made by Margaret Hauth and seconded by Pierre Owusu. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

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

in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. Margaret Hauth stated that she will send Lindsay Smart additional information for this project that can be included in the memo.

Ellen Beckmann wanted to know the NCDOT issue with the Woodcraft Parkway extension. Is the issue whether or not the project is eligible for funding, or whether the City of state would maintain the extension. She wanted to know whether the bonus funds would go back to the City of Durham, which contributed funding to the project, or Wake County, which is the project location. Lastly, there is a large gap between the level of TAP funding that North Carolina receives and the level that is in the TIP. She asked that NCDOT explain this gap.

David Bonk asked that NCDOT identify the amount of available CMAQ funding and state why the MPO's CMAQ allocation does not go through to 2017 in the STIP. He also wanted to know why the SRTS project was programmed so far into the future while the funding is available now.

8. Community Visualization 2.0 Process Presentation (No Attachment)

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

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

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

9. Draft 2014 Environmental Justice Report Presentation Attachment 9

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

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

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

Additional Item for Discussion-Mayor's Challenge

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

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Reports from Staff (Attachment 10)

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

Report from the Chair (No attachment)

There was no report from Chair.

NCDOT Report Attachment 12

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

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

Adjournment

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

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