

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

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**October 28, 2015**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on October 28, 2015 at 9:05 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room on the second floor of the Durham City Hall. The following attended:

Mark Ahrendsen (TC Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Access
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Peter Murphy (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Katherine Eggleston	GoTriangle
Tammy Bouchelle	GoTriangle
Janice Pointer	City of Durham Transportation
Alison Carpenter (Member)	Duke University
Julie Bollinger (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kelly Becker	NCDOT, Traffic Operations
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Margaret Scully	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Tyler Bray	Town of Cary
Phil Hanson	Town of Chapel Hill
Ryan Mickles	Town of Chapel Hill

Quorum Count: 21 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Mark Ahrendsen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (MPO TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair Mark Ahrendsen reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

#### **PRELIMINARIES:**

#### **Adjustments to the Agenda**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

#### **Public Comments**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **4. Approval of September 23, 2015 TC Meeting Minutes**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there was any discussion on the September 23, 2015 MPO TC meeting minutes. There were no comments or proposed amendments to the minutes.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion to approve the September 23, 2015 TC meeting minutes. Scott Whiteman made a motion to approve the September 23, 2015, MPO TC meeting minutes and Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **5. FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development Schedule** **Margaret Scully, LPA Staff**

Meg Scully discussed the review of the FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development schedule. The DCHC MPO is required by federal regulation to prepare a UPWP each year that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. Funding for the UPWP is provided on an annual basis by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration

(FTA). The Lead Planning Agency and jurisdictions that received the FHWA orFTA planning funds participated in the UPWP development process. This process schedule is dictated by deadlines set by the funding agencies as well as the release of grant applications and funding levels.

Margaret Scully stated that the individuals who actually participated in any of the programs, should have already received their application packages. Margaret Scully stated that the application packets contained the proposed development schedule. Margaret Scully stated that all applications should be returned to her by November 6, 2015. Margaret Scully stated that the turnaround time should occur quickly, with a complete draft developed in time to review at the December meeting and to have a recommendation that the Board release it for Public Comment at their January meeting. The draft plan would return to the TC in January for a recommendation that the Board hold a public hearing and approve the plan at the February meeting. Margaret Scully discussed that the process must occur so that a draft can be submitted by the deadline recommended or required by NCDOT , which is by the end of January. Margaret Scully stated that her preference would be to complete as full of a draft as possible on the first go around, so that changes would not be made each time because that would make the review process more complex and it would make it difficult to meet NCDOT's deadline. Margaret Scully asked that the individuals who would prepare the materials to please be as thorough and efficient as possible on the first go around. Margaret Scully stated that the information she provided was for informational purposes only and she asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions. There were no questions, comments or suggestions.

**6. FY16 and FY17 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Application Update**  
**Margaret Scully, LPA Staff**

Margaret Scully stated that the information she provided was for informational purposes only. Margaret Scully stated that earlier in the year MPO TC recommended approval of four different projects. The TC selected two projects from Carrboro, one from GoDurham and one from Chapel Hill Transit for the purchases of new buses under the 16/17 CMAQ funding program. Margaret Scully stated that there was a

\$20,000 balance left because of the requested budgets and the amount of funding that was available. NCDOT reviewed the applications and suggested that there be an increase in the Jones Creek Greenway project in Carrboro that would increase it from \$80,000 to \$100,000. Margaret Scully stated that the changes were reviewed and approved by the Town of Carrboro and the MPO LPA submitted the changes back to NCDOT. NCDOT approved the applications and sent out CMAQ funding award letters. The next step is to amend the MPO's TIP and the STIP to add the CMAQ funding for the four projects into FY 2017. Once the TIP and STIP reflect the new CMAQ funding in FY2017, the transit agencies may request that funds be flexed to the FTA/5307 program and Town of Carrboro would work with NCDOT to move forward with their project.

#### **7. NCDOT SPOT P4.0 New Project Recommendations Update**

**Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

**Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Lindsay Smart explained that the DCHC MPO's subcommittee met in September to discuss the MPO's process for internally ranking the MPO's priority projects. The MPO's process for highway and bike/ped projects was to rank highway and bike/ped projects based on the SPOT P4.0 scoring criteria. The MPO's process for transit projects was to request that the transit operators submit projects to the MPO in prioritized order so the MPO could coordinate with the NCDOT Divisions and try to get all projects submitted. During the September TC meeting, the TC recommended that MPO LPA staff enter all highway and bike/ped projects into the SPOT online tool to obtain any raw scores for the projects that might be available from the tool. Lindsay Smart explained that the anticipated goal was to put 32 projects into the SPOT online tool and to receive a raw score of how well the projects would do relative to each other. Unable to take into account for the whole state wide factor, however; for the ranking purpose of the 32 MPO projects, the goal was for the SPOT online tool to be helpful. Since the September TC meeting, the MPO has received guidance and confirmation from the NCDOT SPOT office that the SPOT online tool would not provide detailed information or raw scores for projects. Lindsay

Smart stated the NCDOT SPOT P5.0( in a year and a half) would have what NCDOT called a “sandbox” tool capability. The goal would be for the P5.0 version to be available to enter projects and began to make the preliminary, raw scores available.

Lindsay Smart stated that the DCHC MPO subcommittee and the MPO LPA staff met on Monday, October 26, 2015, to review the projects in different modes and identify the 14 top priority projects per mode that would be submitted to SPOT.

Lindsay Smart stated that the recommendation from the DCHC MPO subcommittee was for the DCHC MPO TC to review and discuss the recommendations of the top priority 14 new highways, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and rail project submittals and to recommend the 14 new projects from each mode to the DCHC MPO Board for approval and submission to the NCDOT SPOT online tool for P4.0.

Lindsay Smart discussed and reviewed the 14 proposed highway projects that were listed in the handouts that were given out to the audience to review. The 14 proposed highway projects were:

Project 1: Route NC-751 Hope Valley Road from South Roxboro to NC-54 would be widened to four lane, bike lanes and sidewalks.

Project 2: Route NC-147 Durham Freeway from (I-40) to East End Connector would widen Roadway to 6 Lanes and Rehabilitate Pavement.

Project 3: Route I-85, US-15 -Club Blvd. would improve the existing Intersection/interchange.

Project 4: Route NC-751 from NC 54 to the Southpoint Auto Park would widen the existing roadway.

Project 5: Route NC-86 from US 70 Bypass to North of NC-57 would widen the roadway to four lanes with a median and improve intersections.

Project 6: Route I-85 US-15 to NC 86 would construct a new interchange to accommodate increased traffic and widened NC 86 - Diamond with 2 lanes.

Project 7: Route NC -147 Durham Freeway from I-40 Interchange Improvement - SE (To Raleigh) ramp improvement.

Project 8: Route I-85/US 70 Connector, US 70 would reconstruct the interchange to allow for full movements (install a ramp from eastbound US 70 to Connect and from the Connector to westbound US 70).

Project 9: Route NC-751 to SR 1731 - O’Kelly Chapel Rd. would improve the existing intersection.

Project 10: Route SR-1118 Fayetteville Road, from Woodcroft Pkwy to Barbee Road would be widened to 4-lane divided, bike lanes and Sidewalks.

Project 11: New Route - Northern Durham Parkway from US 70to NC 98 would construct Multi-Lanes on New Location.

Project 12: Extend Elliot Rd from US 15/501 to Ephesus Church Rd on new location.

Project 13: Route SR 1006- Orange Grove Rd SR-1148 at Eno Mountain Road SR-1192 and Mayo Street, Construct new section of Eno Mountain Rd and realign intersection with Mayo Street and install signal.

Project 14: Route SR-1777 Homestead Road, from SR 1009 (Old NC 86) NC 86 SR 1009 (Old NC 86) to NC 86 to widen to include bicycle lanes, sidewalks, transit accommodations, and safety improvements.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the 14 highway projects. There were no questions, comments or suggestions regarding the 14 highway projects. Lindsay Smart stated that the subcommittee discussed 21 transit projects and the MPO would submit 14 and have requested that NCDOT Division 5 to submit 3 and NCDOT Division 7 to submit 4. The DCHC MPO Board would await feedback on the final confirmation from Division 5 and Division 7 about their decision.

Lindsay Smart stated that they asked the transit operators to provide the DCHC MPO Board their projects in priority order. The priority order was important because if all 21 projects cannot be added, the order of priority would be used to decide which ones would be used.

Andy Henry asked if 21 transit projects cannot be submitted then how the DCHC MPO Board would know which projects to delete first from Go Triangle, Go Durham or Chapel Hill Transit.

Lindsay Smart stated that the MPO would submit projects based on the priority order, unless the transit operator's request differently.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the transit projects. There were no questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Transit projects.

Lindsay Smart discussed the new rail projects. Lindsay Smart stated that there were 10 projects on the list until earlier that week when John Hodges-Copple recommended adding two additional projects. Lindsay Smart stated that Patrick McDonough had previously asked if he could look at the list and send any other projects before the DCHC MPO Board meeting in early November. Lindsay Smart stated that that there were currently 12 projects listed but 14 projects may be submitted, so there may be two more additional projects added later.

John Hodges-Copple stated that the DCHC MPO Board should evaluate how the projects would score because the freight could help commuter rail. So if a project could be a freight project that also benefitted future commuter rail, that would be best. John Hodges-Copple advised the MPO to try not to leave any slots unused.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the rail projects. There were no questions, comments or suggestions regarding the rail projects.

Lindsay Smart stated the bike/ped project handout had been updated since the last DCHC MPO TC meeting. Lindsay Smart discussed the projects in the handout and stated that the benchmark score was 28 points or greater, meaning that any project expected to score greater than 28 would rank in the top 14

priority projects for the MPO. Lindsay Smart discussed the projects in the handout and explained that the handout prioritized by each community. The projects are listed below :

Pittard Sears Road sidewalks, Cary, Chatham County

O'Kelly Chapel Road side path, Cary, Chatham County

Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, Orange County

Campus to Campus Connector, Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Orange County

NC 54, Carrboro, Orange County

US 15-501 (Fordham Blvd), Chapel Hill, Orange County

Estes Drive, Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Orange County

Barnes Street, Carrboro, Orange County

Ephesus Church/Pope Rd, Chapel Hill, Orange County

Duke Belt Line Trail, City of Durham, Durham County

Guess Road, City of Durham, Durham County

Fayetteville, City of Durham, Durham County

Third Fork Creek Trail, City of Durham, Durham County

Cook Road, City of Durham, Durham County

Dale McKeel reiterated that the projects that score above 28 were expected do well. Dale McKeel stated that any projects that rank above 28 were proposed to be recommended to the Board for approval for submittal for NCDOT SPOT P4.0.

John Hodges-Copple asked if Division 5 would be asked to do the Fayetteville Road project through their submittals.

Lindsay Smart replied to John Hodges-Copple question, stating yes, similar to transit project submittals, the DCHC MPO would ask Division 5 and Division 7 if there were any listed projects that they would be willing and able to submit.



Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the bike/ped projects. There were no questions, comments or suggestions regarding the bike/ped projects.

Felix Nwoko discussed that it was critical that Division 5 and Division 7 to make a timely decision and respond to the MPO's requests that the Division help submit transit and bike/ped projects. Felix Nwoko stated that MPO LPA staff were still waiting on responses from the Divisions and were hoping to receive confirmation soon, so that the MPO LPA may move forward in a timely fashion with the submission of MPO projects.

Ed Lewis discussed that the DCHC MPO Board could count on NCDOT Division 7 to submit at least one bike/ped project and one transit project submittal and depending on what the other RPOs/MPOs request; there may be more available submittals. Ed Lewis discussed that more details would be given soon because the window would close on November 20, 2015.

Lindsay Smart stated that it would be nice to have an answer before the DCHC MPO Board meeting in case MPO LPA staff needed to advise the MPO Board to change priorities.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there was a motion to recommend the DCHC MPO Board to approve the priority project lists that were reviewed by Lindsay Smart for the top priority 14 new highways, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and rail projects with the inclusion of the additional Homestead Road highway project. Margaret Hauth made the motion to approve the recommendation for the DCHC MPO Board to approve the project project lists that were reviewed by Lindsay Smart for the top priority 14 new highways, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and rail projects with the inclusion of the additional Homestead Road highway project and Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Project Status Report** **Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen opened the floor for an update on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DO-LRT) Project Status Report. Geoff Green, GoTriangle, provided an updated status report on the

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) public comment period, which the official comments period for, DEIS ended on October 13, 2015. Geoff Green stated GoTriangle had provided some written responses to Chair Mark Ahrendsen and on November 4th, they would provide all the comments and responses, whether or not the comments and responses had been vetted by the FTA.

Geoff Green stated they received 1,339 comments, 575 were from unique individuals, with a lot of people commenting multiple times. Geoff Green stated of the comments and responses, roughly 36% favored the NEPA preferred alternative, 33% did not show evidence of preferences but just had questions, and 32% opposed the NEPA preferred alternative. Geoff Green stated the action was for the MPO TC to recommend the DCHC MPO Board to approve the resolution of endorsement for the NEPA preferred alternative for the D-O LRT project. Geoff Green stated staff members from GoTriangle were available to answer questions from the MPO TC.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen thanked Geoff Green and asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions regarding expected actions of the DCHC MPO Board on the D-O LRT project.

Lindsay Smart added that the MPO TC meeting agenda included additional attachments of all local elected board actions that had occurred since the summer 2015.

Lindsay Smart stated that the resolution provided in the MPO TC meeting agenda packet had been modified slightly to include a statement about the sales tax increase in the "WHEREAS" but that was the only change to the resolution.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any comments regarding the proposed resolution that should be submitted to the DCHC MPO Board for their consideration during the November Board meeting and any questions regarding the status of the D-O LRT project at this point.

John Hodges-Copple stated that the DCHC MPO Board should express support for the local government actions in the "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED" section of the resolution.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen and Lindsay Smart agreed to include the support in the “NOW,  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED.”

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion for the DCHC MPO Technical Committee to approve the draft resolution with additional language suggested. Scott Whiteman made a motion to approve the draft resolution with additional language suggested and Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**9. Triangle Air Quality Conformity**  
**John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

John Hodges-Copple provided an update on Triangle Air Quality Conformity. John Hodges-Copple briefed the DCHC MPO TC on four issues: 1) The DCHC MPO Board and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) adoption of the air quality conformity for the amendments of the 2040 MTP and for the FY2016 -2025 TIP done in September 2015. John Hodges-Copple stated the TIP and MTP were valid for two years and no amendment needed and that this would be the last time for air quality conformity; 2) As of September 18, 2015 , the Triangle region would no longer need a maintenance plan or air quality non-attainment for any criteria of air pollutant. In the future, MTPs, TIPs or new MTPs updates would not require air quality conformity steps, like in the past. John Hodges-Copple stated that would be the case until air quality worsens in the Triangle; 3) the federal government had lower the Ozone (O3) standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion; however, based on the new standard it would not affect the Triangle area nor the other counties in North Carolina; and 4) the Legislature in its final days included a new law to lessen monitors around the State. John Hodges-Copple stated it was unclear how it would affect the Triangle area; however, over the last year there has been a shift in monitor stations as some were removed in Raleigh and Pittsboro and some new ones were installed at RDU and Sanford. John Hodges-Copple opened the floor for questions.

Felix Nwoko thanked John Hodges-Copple for coordinating the Triangle Air Quality Conformity efforts for the region and for keeping DCHC MPO Technical Committee well informed.

John Hodges-Copple stated the air quality would still be included in the 2045 MTP and that they need to continue the air quality conformity in case something occurred.

Andy Andrews stated that because of the recent changes, the MTP would only have to be updated every five years now , however, the DCHC MPO plans to still update the MTP every four years.

John Hodges-Copple stated it worked better with the existing four-year schedule to match the TIP calendar as well.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen thanked John Hodges-Copple for the report.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **10. Report from Staff** **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko briefed the DCHC MPO TC on the Household Travel Survey. Felix Nwoko stated the survey is still in a testing phase. Felix Nwoko stated the survey will roll out in the spring of 2016.

Dale McKeel mentioned the NCDOT training for Greenway Projects to be held on Tuesday, November 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Century Center (1000 Birch Ridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27610) in Structure Design Conference Room C, which is in Building A (entry at A-4).

##### **11. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair** **Mark Ahrendsen, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen stated that a STIP amendment would be coming up in January 2016 at the State Board of Transportation (BOT).

Lindsay Smart stated the MPO would know more information on November 20<sup>th</sup> when the draft STIP amendments would be posted to the board on the NCDOT website site. The draft amendments would be reviewed by the NCDOT BOT in December 2015 and approved in January 2016.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen stated there would be an additional funding of \$1.6 billion spread over the statewide categories to accelerate project schedules.

Chair Mark Ahrendsen stated Golden Modes Award is coming up on November 12, 2015, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the PNC Club at Durham Bulls Athletic Park, 409 Blackwell Street, Durham, NC 27701.

## **12. NCDOT Reports**

There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 5.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that Jones Ferry was underway and a report would be provided at the next meeting. Ed Lewis stated they had an all day workshop on October 13, 2015, for training on delivering projects to NCDOT at the local level and Division level. Ed Lewis stated a survey was conducted after the training and they scored a lot of good marks and received great feedback. Ed Lewis stated the next workshop will be offered in the eastern part of North Carolina and possibly elsewhere.

Ed Lewis stated the Active Routes to School would hold its first statewide conference on Wednesday, November 18 at the UNC Friday Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 8.

There was no additional report from NCDOT TPB.

There was no additional report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

### **Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Committee Room.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.