

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

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Date 5/25/16**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on May 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

David Bonk (TC Chair)	Chapel Hill Planning
Ellen Beckmann (TC Vice Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham/GoDurham
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Peter Murphy (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Cara Coppola (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Corey Liles (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Kelly Becker (Member)	NCDOT, Traffic Operations
Kayla Seibel (Alternate)	Chapel Hill Planning
Geoff Green (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Maureen Devlin	Chapel Hill Planning
Nathan Huvard	

Quorum Count: 17 of 31 voting members

Chair David Bonk 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 (TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair David Bonk reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet at the counter near the door.

#### **PRELIMINARIES:**

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

Chair David Bonk asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Felix Nwoko stated there were two handouts for the meeting. Felix Nwoko noted the handouts were regarding transportation and health and suggested perhaps the MPO could do a webinar on it.

Chair David Bonk stated the LPA Staff might monitor and decide if the MPO will host one. Chair David Bonk asked if there was a timeframe for when the workshop will be completed. Felix Nwoko stated there was a conference call scheduled for tomorrow. Chair David Bonk asked all the local TC members to send Felix Nwoko an email and let him know of their interest in a MPO facilitated webinar.

##### **Public Comments**

Chair David Bonk 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:**

##### **5. Approval of April 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Chair David Bonk asked if there was any discussion on the April 27, 2016 meeting minutes. There were no questions or discussion. Chair David Bonk asked for a motion to be made to approve the April 27, 2016 meeting minutes. Tom Altieri made a motion to approve the minutes from the MPO TC meeting and Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**6. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant - FFY2015 and FFY2016 Program of Projects**

**Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Meg Scully explained Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant provides funds to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. The DCHC MPO is the Designated Recipient of the funds for the Durham Urbanized Area (UZA) and distributes the funds to eligible sub-recipients through a competitive selection process every other year. A Call for Projects was conducted for \$477,026 (in federal funds) which was the total funding apportioned to the Durham UZA for FFY2015 and FFY2016. Applications were reviewed by a subcommittee and the recommended Program of Projects from the subcommittee is attached. Once approved by the Board, LPA staff will begin the grant application process. Meg Scully reviewed the attachments, noting that the MPO LPA received four applications and the applications were scored by a subcommittee. The proposed funding levels were on the Call for Projects. There were more requests for funding than there are funds available. The subcommittee is recommending that all applications receive funding and at this level. The Technical Committee is recommending the Board to approve the program of projects which would be conveyed to FTA through a grant application and the jurisdictions can start their projects.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if the projects were scaled down to meet the budget. Meg Scully noted projects came in at different amounts. Projects were recommended for funding based on need. Some agencies were scaled back their request to be balanced in a geographic way. There was no official scaling and there was a level at which all programs were funded.

Chair David Bonk asked if the Federal Share could have gone up or was there a cap. Meg Scully stated the Federal Share is dictated by whether it's operational, administrative or capital expenses. Chair David Bonk noted they all looked like they were funded to the maximum, so if something is cut back it

would be the total of the project that's cut, not the Federal amount. Meg Scully replied the Federal Share is what needs to be looked at because there is a difference in the amount of local match required and what dictates what we can distribute is the total share. There was continued discussion about Federal Share. Chair David Bonk asked for a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the Program of Projects. Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the Program of Projects. Kumar Neppalli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Local STP-DA and TAP-DA Project Updates**  
**Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

In 2014, the MPO Board adopted a policy regarding the federal funds that have been programmed for locally administered projects. Annually, the DCHC MPO staff provides lists of local projects that have STP-DA and TAP-DA funding and are programmed in the current or upcoming federal fiscal year to the DCHC MPO TC. Once the lists are provided, the TC discusses the projects and aims to discover any projects that are at risk of falling behind schedule. The purpose of the discussion is to proactively assist TC members with identifying solutions that will lead to successful project implementation. After the TC meeting and discussion, TC members had two to three weeks to provide a written response to the MPO staff that outlines the steps that will be taken to implement the project on-time or within the one-year grace period.

Lindsay Smart stated this is a carryover agenda item and by now they have received a written update from almost everyone. Lindsay Smart continued to explain the next steps which are to review the updates that were submitted and see if there are any emerging themes that are causing project delays. There are a lot of different reasons as to why there are project delays. At the next TC meeting, the TC will take the status updates and see if they can connect the dots to see the reason for delays, and how the TC and MPO can be helpful to improve project delivery .

Chair David Bonk asked how many projects are delayed. Lindsay Smart stated updates were due 5/13/16 and she is still waiting on a few updates so she doesn't have a number yet. Chair David Bonk

118 stated they want to have timely delivery of projects and in the past there were always problems with  
119 projects being delayed, which may result in the funding becoming targets during rescission time and there  
120 may be another round coming. Felix Nwoko stated the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a \$78  
121 billion appropriations bill for the USDOT that contains a \$2.2 billion rescission.

122 Chair David Bonk asked about the status of future Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)  
123 funds. In order to be safe from rescission, the project would have to have funds obligated. Chair David  
124 Bonk asked “when NCDOT refers to a call for project; does that mean the MPO will do a Call for Projects or  
125 NCDOT will? What is the action that these projects have to be at, to keep from being targeted?” Felix  
126 Nwoko stated that the MPO expects NCDOT will do a Call for Projects every two years for CMAQ funds.  
127 Felix Nwoko stated that the question of training came up again. The MPO will facilitate training for locally  
128 managed federal projects. He noted moving forward the MPO may consider requiring the TC member  
129 agencies to request funding in stages, rather than full projects. Ellen Beckman noted Durham is interested  
130 in the proposed NCDOT, FHWA, and FTA training and said it is her understanding that FHWA and NCDOT  
131 staff do most of the training,. Chair David Bonk noted the projects were either ongoing on Old Durham  
132 Chapel Hill Road or Chapel Hill Projects, but asked if Durham or the other jurisdictions had those set of  
133 projects related to the STP-DA funds. Lindsay Smart stated yes, the table projected on the screen is only  
134 page one of all of the projects. Each jurisdiction or agency has their own table. Chair David Bonk requested  
135 an update on the next meeting. There was continued discussion about local STP-DA funds and allocations.  
136 This was an informational report and no action is required.

137 **8. Directives to Staff: Consideration of MPO Name Change**  
138 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

139 The Board requested the LPA MPO Staff make a recommendation regarding the potential change  
140 of the DCHC MPO name. The LPA Staff is requesting input from the TC members on this item. Chair David  
141 Bonk mentioned Councilman Steve Schewel wanted the name changed and asked if anyone knew the  
142 reason for the suggestion. Felix Nwoko answered that Councilmen Schewel and Moffitt mentioned that

DCHC was difficult to remember and what the letters stand for was also difficult to remember. Felix Nwoko stated that another MPO Board member also mentioned that “DCHC MPO” doesn’t provide the public with any explanation of what the MPO’s functions are. Felix Nwoko stated the DCHC MPO name was created in 1990, and in 1994/1995, they considered a name change, but couldn’t come to a consensus.

The suggestion to consider a name change was made previously and they couldn’t come up with a consensus. The members reviewed variations of acronyms for the possible name change. Chair David Bonk noted we can always change but we need to lay out very clearly what the change involves. The TC continued to discuss the pros and cons of doing a name change, discussing the technical issues. There was no consensus on the name change during the TC discussion. Additional discussion included the costs involved with rebranding and changing the name on all public facing materials, email addresses, grant applications, etc. Andy Henry asked if we would take the issues forward and vote. Chair David Bonk stated yes, if that’s the consensus of the group, it would be good to give the MPO Board a general idea of whether the TC thinks it’s worth pursuing. Chair David Bonk suggested that if this is the core of the Board’s concern that perhaps we should hire a professional to assist with the name change. John Hodges-Copple made a motion to share the technical issues of the name change and recognize that the recommendation would not primarily be just a technical concern. Indicate there was no consensus on the name change. Provide a detailed list of names that were put forward. If the main concern is public perception and awareness, than the name change would be probably only a part of something much larger, and that should be brought to the people who are not as marketing deficient as the engineers in planning. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **8. Reports from the LPA Staff** **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

There was no report from the LPA Staff.

##### **9. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

**David Bonk, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

Chair David Bonk announced on June 16, 2016, at the Culbert Middle School in Chapel Hill there will be a public information session on the roundabout at Bennet Road and Mount Carmel Church Road at 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm and NCDOT is coordinating it.

Chair David Bonk stated Chapel Hill Town Council has approved the Local Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Study. Chapel Hill is in discussions with FTA about the next steps. One of the next steps is related to the 2040 MTP. He noted the plan will be reviewed and may need to be amended.

Chair David Bonk mentioned the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and asked if Andy Henry reviewed the draft CTP plan. Andy Henry stated there were a couple of changes over the last couple of months. The draft CTP should go to local jurisdictions, and will be preleased for public comment in August, local jurisdictions in September, and adopted in November.

Chair David Bonk stated two topics related to the MTP is the Community Viz Scenario Planning process, and the socio economic data (SE data). There has been a smaller group meeting on this. In the fall there will be model update testing and as far as the SE data, this schedule suggests we are looking for local review endorsement in October. Chair David Bonk stated he wanted everyone to be aware of what's going on with September and October being crunch time for the Community Viz process.

Chair David Bonk noted the SPOT P4.0 process may be coming back to the Board. Lindsay Smart stated yes. The MPO Board approved the allocation of regional impact projects be posted and circulated for public review. The item will come back to the Board for the Board's June meeting.

**10. NCDOT Reports**

David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated the Alston Avenue project is subject to let in June.

NCDOT Division 7 was not present at the meeting. Chair David Bonk stated he received email stating they are unable to make the meeting.

There was no report from NCDOT Division 8.

Kelly Becker, NCDOT Traffic Operations, stated the Broad and Carver mini roundabout in Durham is complete.

Chair David Bonk asked Geoff Green about the status of the state's Light Rail transit cap. Geoff Green stated the House passed their version of the budget, which includes provision removing the cap on Light Rail. The Senate is releasing its budget proposal, and afterwards, the House and Senate would conference to resolve their differences before a final budget would be passed.

Chair David Bonk announced Lauren Blackburn is leaving NCDOT.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

## 11. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

Dale McKeel stated he saw a reference to a Senate Bill talking about bike ped planning.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22.