

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD****8 February 2017****MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on February 8, 2017 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:

Damon Seils (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Don Moffitt (Member)	City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	Durham County
Barry Jacobs (Member)	Orange County
Brian Lowen (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Jim W. Crawford (Member)	NC Board of Transportation
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Ed Harrison (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Jennifer Britt	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPB
Max Bushell	Orange County
Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
Mila Vega	Town of Chapel Hill
Bergen Watterson	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Margaret Hauth	Hillsborough Planning
John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Scott Whiteman	Durham County
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Thomas Poole	Heart of the Matter Agency

Quorum Count: 7 of 10 Voting Members

Vice Chair Damon Seils 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 Board were identified and are indicated above. Vice Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

Pam Hemminger thanked the City of Durham, the Town of Hillsborough, and Chatham County for their help during the recent Chapel Hill water crisis.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to excuse Chair Steve Schewel, Wendy Jacobs, and Karen Howard from the February MPO Board meeting. Don Moffitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PRELIMINARIES:**

##### **2. Ethics Reminder**

Vice Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by MPO Board members.

Vice Chair Damon Seils reminded MPO Board members and alternates to submit their 2017 Statements of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure forms to the North Carolina Ethics Commission by April 15, 2017.

##### **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Vice Chair Damon Seils asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Felix Nwoko drew attention to two handouts, the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) development schedule and the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization 5.0 (SPOT P5.0) schedule.

69 **4. Public Comments**

70 Vice Chair Damon Seils asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak.

71 There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

72 **5. Directives to Staff**

73 The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

74 Vice Chair Damon Seils called attention to a handout of a letter from the DCHC MPO to the  
75 Secretary of Transportation pertaining to a request for bicycle facilities on Old NC 86.

76 Ed Harrison stated that Ken Withrow, a Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Agency (CAMPO)  
77 transportation planner, is interested in obtaining a copy of the letter. Ed Harrison inquired whether  
78 there was a staff member who would be willing to answer questions about the letter. Vice Chair Damon  
79 Seils stated that he or Dale McKeel would be happy to answer questions about the letter.

80 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

81 **6. Approval of January 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

82 Vice Chair Damon Seils stated that he had submitted minor changes to the minutes. There was  
83 no further discussion of the minutes. Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the January 11, 2017  
84 minutes as amended. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

85 **ACTION ITEMS:**

86 **7. Draft FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

87 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

88 Meg Scully stated that other than a few minor corrections, no changes were made since the  
89 MPO Board last saw the UPWP. Meg Scully discussed two projects that will likely be added to the UPWP  
90 at a later date, a US 15-501 corridor study and a Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)  
91 Deployment Plan update. She stated that the details of these projects are still being worked out and that  
92 the UPWP would be revised before the end of the fiscal year to add these projects.

Meg Scully and Ed Harrison discussed sources of funding for the proposed US 15-501 corridor study.

Vice Chair Damon Seils opened the public hearing on the FY18 UPWP. There were no public comments. Vice Chair Damon Seils closed the public hearing.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the FY2018 UPWP. Brian Lowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Approval of Amendment #7 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Amendment #7 includes a request to modify the funding for the North Duke Street sidewalk project in Durham from Safe Routes to School (SRTS) to State Surface Transportation Program (STP), and also push back Preliminary Engineering (PE)/design from FY16 to FY17. The second item in this amendment is a new project managed by GoTriangle, the Rides to Wellness project. In addition, there are seven additional projects added by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), as well as four modifications that will be made by the State Board of Transportation. Aaron Cain reviewed the contents of Amendment # 7 to the FY 2016 -25 TIP.

Ellen Reckhow asked why the GoTriangle project was called Rides to Wellness. Geoff Green clarified that the project was funded through a competitive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant program by that name. Meg Scully stated that the FTA program was focused on helping people with transportation to medical appointments, particularly those with behavioral or mental health needs.

Vice Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed whether the NCDOT projects were being modified in ways that were unrelated to funding. Vice Chair Damon Seils stated that he was particularly interested in a project on NC 54 in Carrboro, and Aaron Cain stated that he was unsure whether the scope of that project had been changed. Ellen Beckmann stated that the additional projects were funded through SPOT P4.0 and were being added to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) so that planning work could begin.

Ellen Reckhow commented on the urgency of expanding NC 147.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve Amendment #7 to the FY 2016-25 TIP. Barry Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) – Public Input Update**

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Julie Bogle, NCDOT

The MPO Board released the draft CTP at their December meeting for a three-month public input process. The MPO advertised the CTP public input opportunity in local newspapers, on an email list, and via social media. Andy Henry reviewed the schedule for upcoming CTP presentations to local boards and commissions, elected officials, and citizen workshops. Andy Henry also provided an overview of feedback received on the CTP to date.

Vice Chair Damon Seils opened a public hearing on the CTP.

Pam Hemminger discussed concerns conveyed by the University of North Carolina (UNC) and UNC Health Care about planned expansion in the Eastowne area and the proposed Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Gateway station. Vice Chair Damon Seils stated that it would be a good idea to receive formal comments from UNC on the CTP. Pam Hemminger discussed the scope of UNC's proposed expansion. Andy Henry stated that although the official comment period ends on February 24<sup>th</sup>, he would accept comments after that date. Andy Henry and Pam Hemminger discussed the logistics of formally reaching out to UNC. Felix Nwoko commented that the proposed 15-501 corridor study might address some of UNC's concerns. Andy Henry asked for and received clarification about the location of the Eastowne area.

Ed Harrison discussed problems with the superstreet concept proposed by a previous US 15-501 corridor study, and potential problems with locating the entry of the D-O LRT Gateway station on Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road.

Ellen Reckhow suggested looking more closely at proposed development in the area in order to better plan for the D-O LRT, possibly through working with major employers and Chambers of Commerce.

Vice Chair Damon Seils closed the public hearing.

Andy Henry stated that the CTP will come back to the MPO Board for review at their March meeting and for adoption at their April meeting.

This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

**10. Draft FY2018-2027 STIP Update**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

The draft FY18-27 STIP was released on December 22, 2016. Local Planning Agency (LPA) Staff has reviewed the draft and created a document that compares the current STIP to the draft STIP. The document highlights projects that have lost funding or had a significant schedule change, as well as new projects.

LPA staff has set up a meeting with NCDOT to review the draft STIP on March 8, 2017. Aaron Cain stated that LPA and local jurisdiction staff will meet prior to the meeting with NCDOT in order to compile a list of questions and comments regarding the draft STIP. Aaron Cain stated that he hoped to provide NCDOT with a list of questions by February 15, 2017.

This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

**REPORTS:**

**8. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**

Damon Seils, DCHC MPO Board Vice Chair

There was no report from the DCHC MPO Chair.

**9. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

There was no report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair.

**10. Reports from LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

There was no report from the LPA Staff.

**11. NCDOT Reports:**

There was no report from NCDOT Division 5.

Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that his division is finalizing plans for the roundabout on Mt. Carmel Church Road/Bennett Road. Pat Wilson stated that the project was delayed due to archeological and historical issues, which turned out not to be issues after all. Pat Wilson stated that the project should soon be in the right-of-way (ROW) stage, and after that, it will be let for construction. Pat Wilson stated that the project would not be let according to the original schedule, but if ROW acquisition is minimal, it could be completed sooner than is currently anticipated. Pam Hemminger noted that another project has come forward that would be affected by construction of the proposed roundabout and that the Town of Chapel Hill was hoping that the project could be completed on time. Pat Wilson stated that he would know more about the scheduling of the project in March 2017.

Jennifer Britt, NCDOT Division 8, stated her division recently hired a new planner who would begin work on February 13, 2017, and would attend future MPO Board meetings.

There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**12. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

There were no informational items.

Barry Jacobs asked for and received clarification about the description of the I-40 widening project in Aaron Cain's document that compares the current STIP to the draft STIP. Aaron Cain clarified

191 that the widening of I-40 to six lanes was not moving forward. Instead, interchange improvements at I-  
192 40 and NC 86 are scheduled for ROW in 2021 and construction in 2023.

193 **ADJOURNMENT:**

194 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at  
195 9:43 a.m.