

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

February 8, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on February 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the second floor Committee Room at Durham City Hall, as well as through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Jenn Weaver (Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Karen Howard (Vice Chair)	Chatham County
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Javiera Caballero (Member)	City of Durham
Leonardo Williams (Member)	City of Durham
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Camille Berry (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Sally Greene (Alternate)*	Orange County
Brenda Howerton (Alternate)*	Durham County
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Brandon Dawson*	Chatham County
Bergen Watterson*	Town of Chapel Hill
Josh Mayo*	Town of Chapel Hill
Caroline Dwyer*	Town of Chapel Hill
Matt Cecil*	Town of Chapel Hill
Tina Moon*	Town of Carrboro
Sean Egan*	City of Durham
Bill Judge*	City of Durham
Evian Patterson*	City of Durham
Tom Devlin*	City of Durham
Eric Vitale	City of Durham
Erin Convery*	City of Durham
DeDreana Freeman*	City of Durham
Matt Day*	Triangle J Council of Governments
Meg Scully*	GoTriangle
Cha'ssem Anderson*	The University of North Carolina
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Tracy Parrot	NCDOT Division 5
Pat Wilson*	NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson*	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar*	NCDOT Division 8
Julie Bogle*	NCDOT TPD
John Tallmadge*	Bike Durham
Kym Meyer*	Southern Environmental Law Center

43	Megan Kimball*	Southern Environmental Law Center
44	Mike Wald*	Resident
45	Heidi Perov*	Resident
46	Ahmed Finoh	Resident
47	Eliud DeJesus	Greenville Urban Area MPO
48	Anne Lenart-Redmond*	STV
49	Aidil Ortiz*	Aidilisms

50	Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
51	Kelly Fomenko	DCHC MPO
52	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
53	Yanping Zhang*	DCHC MPO
54	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
55	David Miller	DCHC MPO
56	Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	DCHC MPO
57	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO

58 Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members
 59 *Attended remotely

60 **1. Roll Call**

61 Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll call was completed using a
 62 sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom participant list for remote attendees.

63 **PRELIMINARIES:**

64 **2. Ethics Reminder**

65 Chair Jenn Weaver referenced the Ethics Reminder included in the agenda packet.

66 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

67 Doug Plachcinski stated that the Town of Chapel Hill would like to add a letter of support request
 68 for its RAISE grant application as an action item. The Board approved this request.

69 **4. Public Comments**

70 John Tallmadge thanked planning staff for considering the projects included in agenda item 13:
 71 FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap, and encouraged continued prioritization of projects that increase safety.

72 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

5. Approval of the December 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**David Miller, LPA Staff****6. Approval of the January 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes****David Miller, LPA Staff****7. Orange County Request to Flex FHWA Funds (STBG/COVID Relief) to FTA (5307) Funds)****Nishith Trivedi, Orange County****8. City of Durham Letter of Support Request for USDOT RAISE23 Grant Application****Evian Patterson, City of Durham****9. NCDOT Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program Letter of Support****David Miller, LPA Staff****10. Biannual Status Report on Locally Administered Projects (LAP)****Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Camille Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:**11A. Town of Chapel Hill Letter of Support Request for RAISE Grant Application****Bergen Watterson, Town of Chapel Hill**

Bergen Watterson requested that the MPO Board authorize the Board Chair to sign a letter of support to accompany its RAISE grant application for the Town of Chapel Hill's Everywhere-To-Everywhere greenway network project.

Damon Seils made a motion to authorize the MPO Board Chair to sign a letter of support for the Town of Chapel Hill's RAISE grant application. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11B. FY2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program**David Miller, LPA Staff**

David Miller presented the FY24 draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and highlighted the funding sources, programmed budget by MPO members, requested special studies, and the approval timeline.

Damon Seils asked if the 2020 U.S. Census data will affect MPO member's local matches within the FY24 UPWP, or future UPWPs. Doug Plachcinski replied that factors that could impact the local match include if DCHC MPO adds new members based on the new boundaries identified by the 2020 U.S. Census data, as well as how DCHC MPO's budget and financial obligations are affected as a part of its transitions to Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) as its new Lead Planning Agency (LPA).

Camille Berry made a motion to recommend the Board release the draft FY2024 UPWP for public comment. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. FY24 Call for Projects - Recommended Projects for Funding
Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Kelly Fomenko provided an overview of the projects that were submitted by member jurisdictions, their associated funding sources, and the total amount of funding recommended by MPO staff. Kelly Fomenko stated that the City of Durham's funding recommendation is high because they have existing projects, which are a priority for the MPO.

Damon Seils asked why the amount recommended in the FY24 Call for Projects does not equal the amount available for jurisdictions. Kelly Fomenko replied that this call for projects does not require members to request all funding available to them at this time, and that the funds could be obligated in the future.

Leonardo Williams made a motion to release the proposed projects to be funded through the FY24 Call for Projects for a 21-day public comment period. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap
Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Kelly Fomenko shared the FY2024-2033 STIP Swap process. Kelly Fomenko shared six projects being considered for swapping in (U-6118: NC 55, U-6120: NC 98, P-5734: Trinity RR, P-5736: Beryl RR, U-5304F: US 15-501, and U-5774F: NC 54), and three projects being considered for swapping out (U-

6021: Fayetteville, U-5720B: US 70, and U-5774B: NC 54). Kelly Fomenko stated that these projects within the swap process adhere to the requirement that the combined budget of projects being swapped into the STIP must be less than 110% of the cost of projects being swapped out.

Wendy Jacobs asked what the process will be for reapplying for funding for U-5720B: US 70.

Andy Henry stated that if the project changes significantly, it will need to go through the SPOT process again for new scoring. Tracy Parrot confirmed Andy Henry's comments.

Damon Seils made a motion to release the proposed draft FY2024-2033 swap for a 21-day public comment period. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. MPO Board Legislative Priorities

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski shared that the DCHC MPO Board requested staff propose legislative priorities for the 2023 North Carolina Legislative Session based on previous joint policy statements developed with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) in 2021. Doug Plachcinski shared the legislative priorities for consideration.

Michael Parker suggested prioritizing and therefore condensing the list of priorities, and Karen Howard outlined a potential priority selection process. Wendy Jacobs stated that she would like a priority included that prioritizes an increase in transportation funding. Sally Greene stated that she would like to have more conversation regarding equitable transit-oriented design. Doug Plachcinski stated that he will follow up with Board members about further discussion and next steps.

Damon Seils made a motion to approve the legislative priorities. Leonardo Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

15. US 70 East Corridor Study

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Aidil Ortiz, Aidilisms

152 Andy Henry shared that the MPO is conducting a corridor study of the segment of US 70 from I-
153 885 to the future Northern Durham Parkway, and that it is working with consultant STV to look at what
154 impacts a boulevard would have along the corridor. Andy Henry stated that the study began in August
155 2022 and has included a review of current conditions, demographics and similar corridors; public
156 engagement activities; and alternatives. Andy Henry stated that the presentation today entails the
157 public engagement activities that will be presented by Aidil Ortiz from the study's subconsultant,
158 Aidilisms.

159 Aidil Ortiz stated that she has been leading the public engagement efforts for this study. Aidil
160 Ortiz shared that feedback was gathered from both online and emailed surveys, which was open from
161 November 2022 to January 2023 and garnered 396 surveys. Aidil Ortiz said that she held both in-person
162 and online community meetings and two online meetings. Aidil Ortiz shared the feedback received from
163 these public engagement activities. Andy Henry said that the next steps in this process is for the Core
164 Technical Team (CTT) to develop alternatives which will then be presented to the public for feedback,
165 culminating in a final plan expected to be completed in Summer 2023.

166 Camille Berry asked what strategies will be used to increase the number of responses from
167 diverse populations. Aidil Ortiz shared that the strategy thus far has included contacting businesses
168 along the corridor, though many were not interested in providing input; and that signs were displayed
169 in the neighborhoods along the corridor. Aidil Ortiz stated that the timing of the first round of public
170 engagement efforts coincided with the holidays, which may have impacted the response. Aidil Ortiz
171 added that most responses came from predominantly white neighborhoods who are organized with
172 voicing their feedback. Anne Lemont-Redmond added that the Leesville Coalition has been active and
173 vocal based on their concerns and needs, which might have impacted the demographics that are seen
174 in the first round of public engagement activities. Camille Berry suggested working with neighborhood
175 ambassadors who are trusted to pass along feedback opportunities.

Leonardo Williams asked what weight the survey will have in the final decision, and Anne Lemont-Redmond replied that equity is a critical component of the public engagement process, as well as how to move forward. Karen Howard said that it is the responsibility of the Board to show that under-represented communities matter in decision making. Wendy Jacobs suggested explaining what multi-modal transportation means, and why the corridor study began, as part of future public engagement.

16. Annual Ethics Reminder for DCHC MPO Board
Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Kelly Fomenko reminded Board member to complete their economic disclosure forms.

REPORTS:

17. Report from the Board Chair
Jenn Weaver, Board Chair

Chair Jenn Weaver had no report to share.

18. Report from the Technical Committee Chair
Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair

Technical Committee Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann provided an update to the Durham County and Orange County Interlocal Agreement (ILA).

19. Report from LPA Staff
Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski shared that DCHC MPO's Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application was awarded. Doug Plachcinski shared that details for a joint DCHC MPO and CAMPO Board meeting will be announced soon.

20. NCDOT Reports
Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

There was no additional report.

Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT

Tracy Parrot said that the Alston Avenue project continues to move forward, and that the East End Connector still has ongoing work despite it being open.

Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT

There was no additional report.

Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT

There was no additional report.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT

Julie Bogle shared that the North Carolina Statewide Freight Plan is now available online.

John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

There was no additional report.

Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT

There was no additional report.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:

21. Recent News Articles and Updates

Chair Jenn Weaver referenced the recent news articles and updates.

22. Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Network Survey Request

Chair Jenn Weaver referenced the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Network survey request.

23. RSG TRB Presentation on Teleworking Trends

Chair Jenn Weaver referenced the RSG TRB presentation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Doug Plachcinski recognized Andy Henry on his upcoming retirement after twenty years of service. The Board thanked Andy Henry for his service. There being no further business before the MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.