

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

10 November 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on November 10, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Lisa Mathis (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Javiera Caballero (Alternate)	City of Durham
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Theo Letman	Orange Public Transportation
Tom Altieri	Orange County Planning
Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
Josh Mayo	Chapel Hill Planning
Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
Zach Hallock	Carrboro Planning
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Evian Patterson	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Tom Devlin	City of Durham Transportation
John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka	The University of North Carolina
Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration
Travis Crayton	Research Triangle Foundation

41	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
42	Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 5
43	Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
44	Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
45	Jeron Monroe	NCDOT Division 8
46	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
47	Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD
48	Melanie Nguyen	NCDOT
49	Pam Williams	NCDOT
50	Terry Farr	NCDOT
51	Ryan Moody	Resident
52	David Morgan	RDU Airport Board Member
53	Joe Milazzo II	Regional Transportation Alliance
54	John Tallmadge	Bike Durham
55	Stephen Straus	Developmental Associates
56	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
57	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
58	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
59	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
60	Kayla Peloquin	DCHC MPO
61	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO

62 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

63 **1. Roll Call**

64 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and
 65 Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated
 66 above. Michael Parker made a motion to excuse the absence of Board Member Pierce Freelon. Javiera
 67 Caballero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

68 **PRELIMINARIES:**

69 **2. Ethics Reminder**

70 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
 71 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
 72 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
 73 MPO Board Members.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

Aaron Cain said that item #12 will be pulled from the consent agenda to become action item #16b. Aaron Cain stated there was a request to add language supporting a bicycle and pedestrian facility to item #9, the S-Line letter of support. Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned the language added to the S-Line letter of support will be consistent with a resolution previously adopted by the MPO Board. Aaron Cain said item #18 will take place at 10:30 a.m. when the consultants are able to join the meeting.

4. Public Comments

John Tallmadge, Executive Director of Bike Durham, said he was surprised that the UPWP Prospectus only carves out a technical role for the MPO and not a role in policy development to support member organizations in achieving the goals of the MPO Board. John Tallmadge said that in discussing this issue with staff, he learned the proper place for that concern is with the Governance Study. John Tallmadge encouraged balancing technical work and studies with a policy and leadership role and hopes to see a more expansive role for the MPO through the Governance Study.

5. Directives to Staff

Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned the draft Governance Study will be presented at the December MPO Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. October 13, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes

7. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #8

Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

8. FY22 UPWP Amendment #1

Mariel Klein, LPA Staff

9. S-Line Letter of Support – CRISI 2021

Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

10. Letter of Support for City of Durham Application for FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Grant

Evian Patterson, City of Durham

Sean Egan, City of Durham

11. Letter of Support for GoTriangle Application for FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Grant

Jay Heikes, GoTriangle

13. UPWP Prospectus for Continuing Transportation Planning for the DCHC MPO

Mariel Klein, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

14. Signatory Authority for Acting MPO Managers

Bill Judge, City of Durham

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the amended language supporting a bicycle and pedestrian facility along the alignment in the S-Line letter of support. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

15. 2050 MTP – Preferred Option

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry provided a brief presentation on the Preferred Option and pointed out that there are more detailed materials available on the DCHC MPO website, including a compilation of public comments and interactive maps. Andy Henry reviewed the roadway projects in the Preferred Option consisting of those in the first four years of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), modernizations, possibilities for managed and bus advantaged lanes, and grid streets. Andy Henry pointed out the highway projects that Orange County requested be added back into the Preferred Option with the exception of NC 54 (I-40 to Barbee Chapel Road), which has since been removed. Andy Henry stated no changes have been made to transit projects since the October 13 Board meeting. Andy Henry said that 84% of bicycle and pedestrian projects listed in local plans are included in the Preferred Option. Andy Henry described the Preferred Option investment revenue assumptions.

Andy Henry outlined the costs and revenues in the financial plan for the roadways as well as for transit. Overall distribution of investments per decade and a percentage of the total cost was displayed

for the following categories: bicycle/pedestrian/Transportation Demand Management (TDM), roadway improvement, roadway maintenance and operation, and transit. Andy Henry reviewed the upcoming schedule that aims for final adoption of the 2050 MTP, the Socioeconomic (SE) data, the Triangle Regional Model (TRM), and the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR) in early 2022.

Chair Wendy Jacobs thanked Andy Henry for the presentation and opened the public hearing. David Morgan raised concerns over two sections of US 70 that connect to the Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU). David Morgan said converting US 70 to a boulevard or modernization may negatively impact existing traffic concerns in the area. David Morgan said his main concern is connectivity to RDU airport and would like to leave US 70 as a freeway until more information is available on commercial development in the area. Joe Milazzo II of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) applauded the MPO for an increased focus on connectivity and accessibility throughout the development of the Preferred Option. Joe Milazzo II said RTA advocates for multimodal freeways but is open to creative thinking for US 70 in what a freeway can be with a more holistic view of mobility. Joe Milazzo II mentioned the RTA tour to South Florida in January 2022 that will be focused on multimodal opportunities.

John Tallmadge thanked the MPO Board for pushing the staff to develop a visionary Preferred Option that moves the needle towards achieving the goals, although there is still a long way to go to fully achieve the goals. John Tallmadge said he will follow-up with more specific written comments on individual projects. John Tallmadge encouraged all stakeholders to work together to move the needle beyond the limits still present in the Preferred Option. Ryan Moody, a resident who lives near Highway 147 in downtown Durham expressed support for the conversion of that highway to a boulevard. Ryan Moody referenced previous conversations with neighbors that indicate the social importance of the project to the community. Ryan Moody also expressed support for the East End Connector project. Chair

Wendy Jacobs closed the public hearing and encouraged comments to be submitted to Andy Henry in writing before the public comment period ends on December 7.

Julie Bogle and Andy Henry discussed the conversion of one-way pairs to two-way pairs in Durham that are included in the MTP, which is a subset of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Julie Bogle stated that there is a need for further study and that she will follow up with staff on this issue. Andy Henry said the CTP will be amended in the next several months and the one-way pairs can be discussed further through that process. Charlie Reece thanked LPA staff for delivering the Preferred Option and emphasized the importance of Highway 147 that could become a great asset to the broader community. Charlie Reece said that overall this Preferred Option is a good transformational first step, but more still needs to be done to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and with respect to global climate change. Chair Wendy Jacobs commended staff for their ongoing work and thanked the public commenters. Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned that after the joint board meeting with CAMPO on September 29, CAMPO revised their Preferred Option. Aaron Cain added that CAMPO has removed over 400 roadway projects, increased frequency in their frequent transit network areas, is exploring additional local and regional revenue assumptions through the transit tax, and targeted roadway funding for secondary roads.

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked for thoughts from staff on incorporating assumptions in the Preferred Option of increasing the transit tax to one cent or adding an additional one cent. Andy Henry said the revenue assumptions already include an additional half cent sales tax and there is a cap on the transit tax. John Hodges-Copple said changes to the sales tax require legislative action that would also likely adjust the cap, however we don't want to be cavalier about assuming increased revenue authority. Chair Wendy Jacobs pointed out that it would be beneficial for MPOs to work together on this issue from a legislative standpoint. There was a discussion on potential uses for additional transit tax funds. Damon Seils added that local and regional transit agencies would likely have many thoughts on how additional

transit tax revenue could be spent. Sally Greene, a member of the Transit Policy Steering Committee for the revised Orange County Transit Plan, said they have been asked to only assume revenue from the half cent sales tax although they have many ideas on how to use additional revenue. Andy Henry said he will work on ideas for new investments from a potential increase in the transit tax.

Chair Wendy Jacobs followed up on comments from the public hearing and said she wants to explore the possibilities of managed lanes, freeways, and boulevards. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked staff to present on the possibilities for US 70 at the December Board meeting. Aaron Cain said information on repurposing the US 70 Corridor Study could be presented at the January Board meeting to provide a better idea of what a boulevard could be while working with NCDOT. Chair Wendy Jacobs stated preference for completing the study prior to the adoption of the MTP as there is already funding allocated. Aaron Cain pointed out this request to repurpose the study greatly expands the scope and will likely require additional funds. Ellen Beckmann said she thinks there is opportunity to reach consensus with NCDOT on projects like US 70 and hopes NCDOT will approach discussions with a more holistic view of what the projects really mean to the community rather than just highway capacity projects.

This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the Board.

16. Federal Funding Policy Update

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain summarized the purpose of the Federal Funding Policy that ensures the scoring rubric and therefore the projects that are selected for funding are aligned with the MPO's recently adopted goals and objectives for the 2050 MTP. Aaron Cain described how the proposed Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) category follows federal requirements to create a competitive process for funding. As requested by the Board, quantifiable scoring processes are included for locally administered projects (LAP), the policy encourages completing ongoing projects before starting new projects, and there is a stronger requirement for public involvement. Chair Wendy Jacobs thanked MPO staff for

working through a transparent process to update this policy and ensure the rubric is clear, data driven, and tied to the MPO's policies.

Jamezetta Bedford suggested reviewing the policy in two years. Aaron Cain said the Federal Funding Policy will be revised at a minimum every four years when the MTP is updated and new goals and objectives are adopted. However, because this policy creates a new funding system, it can be revised after two years. Javiera Caballero said she appreciates the improvements to the policy and agreed a review sooner than in four years would be useful. Javiera Caballero said that because Durham has the largest Environmental Justice (EJ) population, this policy achieves geographic equity but misses the mark on racial and socioeconomic equity. Charlie Reece agreed with Javiera Caballero and said he is grateful for the changes that have been brought forth so far but will be voting against adoption of the policy due to the cap. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver acknowledged these important and complex points and added that although smaller communities in the MPO have lower populations, there are still low-income residents and people of color that do not have access to transit.

Damon Seils made a motion to adopt the Federal Funding Policy that will be revisited after two years to determine if the cap needs to be adjusted. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-2, with Charlie Reece and Javiera Caballero dissenting.

16b. Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funding Distribution for FY23
Maribel Klein, LPA Staff

Vice Chair Jenn Weaver made a motion to approve the FY23 distribution of STBG-DA and TAP funds. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Authorization for New Planner Position
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain said this request for authorization would allow the process of getting into the City of Durham's budget process to begin. Aaron Cain said that it is difficult to recruit and retain staff in part-time positions. Aaron Cain stated that this request was recommended for approval by the TC on a 26-1

vote. There was a discussion on how there is no impact to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) because there are existing part-time positions that would cover the cost of a full-time position. Charlie Reece asked for the perspective of the dissenting vote at the TC meeting. Ellen Beckmann said she voted no because the results of the Governance Study have not yet been presented to the TC and MPO Board, and the results of the study should inform staff decisions going forward. Amy Ryan said the new planner position would have more of a technical role, and it is unusual to have the planner also complete administrative work. Aaron Cain said the goal is to have a full-time planner, but it is currently unclear if the budget would allow the part-time position to be backfilled, so the planner would have to complete the administrative duties. Amy Ryan asked if that will make this a less desirable job for someone with planning experience. Amy Ryan said it would be more reasonable to explore options other than authorizing a new FTE while waiting for the Governance Study. Aaron Cain said waiting for action on the Governance Study could result in missed deadlines for the City of Durham budget process.

Jamezetta Bedford said she is concerned that it is inefficient for a planner to do administrative work. Aaron Cain said that ideally the planner would do strictly planner work, and will look into if the part-time administrative position can be backfilled. Bill Judge clarified that the City of Durham needs authorization by January 2022. Charlie Reece agreed that Board action is not needed at this meeting in order to submit a placeholder in the budget process.

Chair Wendy Jacobs tabled this item until the consultants present the MPO Governance Study.

18. Hiring Process for New MPO Manager

Wendy Jacobs, MPO Board Chair

Bill Judge, City of Durham

Bill Judge mentioned the retirement of long-serving MPO Director Felix Nwoko effective January 1, 2022, and said the Board will be very involved in identifying qualifications for the next candidate and selecting the new director. Bill Judge said the City of Durham requests authorization to sign a contract with a professional consultant, Developmental Associates, to run the process and form an executive

search committee. Chair Wendy Jacobs said she has agreed to serve on the executive search committee along with Vice Chair Jenn Weaver, Damon Seils, Karen Howard, and Pam Hemminger. Chair Wendy Jacobs said the full Board will be involved in creating the job description and making the final hiring decision. Jamezetta Bedford expressed support for using an experienced local consultant and suggested a member of the TC with technical expertise be on the executive search committee. Stephen Straus said it would be great to have someone with technical expertise on the committee. Stephen Straus said the overall approach is to get input from the Board, staff, and other key stakeholders with regard to the key challenges facing the MPO and the desired key competencies of the new director. Michael Parker asked if the timing will align to gain input from the Governance Study prior to moving forward on the job description. Chair Wendy Jacobs said the timing will work out to have guidance from the Governance Study prior to making decisions. Charlie Reece expressed support for the great work of Developmental Associates. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver agreed with Jamezetta Bedford that someone with technical expertise should serve on the executive search committee. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked TC Chair Ellen Beckmann to appoint a member.

Michael Parker made a motion to authorize the City of Durham to enter into the agreement with Developmental Associates on behalf of the MPO. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

19. MPO Board Officer Election

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Chair Wendy Jacobs said a nominating committee has been formed including Michael Parker, Karen Howard, and Jamezetta Bedford to create recommendations for the 2022 MPO Board leadership that will be voted on at the December meeting.

REPORTS:

20. Report from the MPO Board Chair

Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair

Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned the GoTriangle Commuter Rail Webinar on November 18 from 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and said information will be sent out about all upcoming events. Chair Wendy Jacobs said that an accident involving a car and a student occurred in front of Riverside High School in Durham and that has brought up questions about safe routes to schools, so a report will be available on that soon. Chair Wendy Jacobs brought up the Infrastructure Bill recently approved by Congress and stated the importance of being prepared to apply for grant opportunities. Aaron Cain said information will be provided at the December Board meeting in as much detail as is available. Wendy Jacobs proposed an update on federal legislation and funding be a standard report on the Board agenda each month. Chair Wendy Jacobs commended Chapel Hill for taking swift action on the Franklin Street project.

21. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann pointed out the revisions to the MTP could set up the MPO well for grant programs. Ellen Beckmann said discussions are ongoing with NCDOT on the Complete Streets Policy. Ellen Beckmann said a Durham and Orange County Transit Plans Governance Study workshop will be held on November 19.

22. Report from LPA Staff

Dale McKeel provided an update on the Triangle Bikeway Study and said CAMPO is entering into an amended agreement with the consultant for additional services. An additional \$16,000 is requested for DCHC that will be fully encompassed in the UPWP and will go to Durham City Council for approval. Aaron Cain announced the Chapel Hill Transportation Demand Management (TDM) conference will be held on November 18 and registration information will be sent out.

23. NCDOT Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Lisa Mathis said NCDOT will provide details on the Infrastructure Bill as they become available. Lisa Mathis provided financial updates and reiterated that NCDOT has a cost problem, not a revenue

problem. The P 6.0 workgroup is still reviewing impacts of cost escalations and aims to provide a more reliable STIP for FY24-33 through collaboration and transparency. Lisa Mathis announced the winner of America's Transportation Awards for 2021 was the Salem Parkway project in Winston-Salem, that used a public involvement consultant, which could be an option for DCHC. Lisa Mathis acknowledged longstanding pushback from NCDOT on the types of projects the MPO has pursued, but feels there is a lot of room for collaboration. Lisa Mathis summarized other awards the state of NC has won. Lisa Mathis encouraged meeting participants to take an online customer survey to provide input on the performance of the department by March 2022. The NCDOT Transportation Summit will be held January 19-20, 2022.

Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT

David Keilson said completion of the East End Connector is anticipated in the spring and completion of the Alston Avenue project is anticipated in late 2022. David Keilson said the Old Durham/Old Chapel Hill Road project is still on track for completion in the spring. David Keilson referenced the incident at Riverside High School brought up by Chair Wendy Jacobs, and said he will provide more details as they become available.

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

Pat Wilson had no additional report.

Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT

Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT

Julie Bogle had no additional report.

John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

There was no additional report.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

324 **24. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

325 Chair Wendy Jacobs pointed out the attached article.

326 **ADJOURNMENT:**

327 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

328 11:25 a.m.