

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

October 26, 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on October 26, 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
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Max Bushell (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
Julie Bollinger (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Jennifer Britt (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka (Member)	The University of North Carolina
Terry Bellamy	City of Durham Transportation
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Eddie Dancausse	FHWA

Quorum Count: 19 of 31 Voting Members

Chair David Bonk called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 that was being circulated.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair David Bonk asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. 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:

4. Approval of September 28, 2016 TC Meeting Minutes

Chair David Bonk asked if there was any discussion of the meeting minutes. There was no discussion of the minutes. John Hodges-Copple moved to approve the September 28, 2016 meeting minutes. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. 2040 MTP – Update to Environmental Justice

Paul Black, CAMPO

This item will be discussed at the November 16, 2016 Technical Committee (TC) meeting.

6. SPOT P4.0 Division Needs Tier Project Priorities and Local Input Points

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) Board adopted a motion to do the following during its October meeting: 1) Extend the public review and comment period to November 9; 2) Grant DCHC MPO Local Planning Agency (LPA) staff the flexibility to coordinate with other MPOs, RPOs, and divisions on the assignment of Local Input Points for the Division Needs tier and make modifications to preliminary point assignments to maximize the number of projects

in the DCHC MPO area to receive funding through the SPOT P4.0 process; 3) Request that Division 8 put Local Input Points toward the NC 751-O'Kelly Chapel Road intersection; 4) Request that Division 7 put Local Input Points toward (a) Estes Drive Bike-Ped, (b) Jones Ferry Road Sidewalk, and (c) Barnes Street Sidewalk, in that priority order; and 5) Request that Division 5 put Local Input Points toward the Duke Belt Line Trail and not put points on the NC 751 widening between NC 54 and Auto Park Boulevard.

Dale McKeel stated that requests have been made to Divisions 5, 7, and 8 and he has not received any additional information from the divisions. Dale McKeel informed the TC that the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) would like to donate points for the NC 54 operational improvement project in Orange County. TARPO has put points on this project and would like to share additional points with the MPO for the portion of the project that is in the DCHC MPO area. Dale McKeel stated that there was no reason not to accept the points, and that Division 7 has not indicated that it would put points on this project. Dale McKeel commented that he did not know what effect these donated points would have funding for the project.

Bergen Watterson and Max Bushell commented that Carrboro and Orange County would be in support of accepting the points from TARPO.

David Keilson stated that Division 5 received a request for additional points for the Duke Belt Line Trail and they would re-evaluate the decision to put points on this project as more information becomes available.

Chair David Bonk and Dale McKeel discussed the extension of the public comment period and whether a recommendation to the MPO Board was needed at their November 9th meeting. Dale McKeel stated that it was important that the staff have flexibility to respond to any additional information that is received from the divisions and the public.

Felix Nwoko asked about the feasibility of the TARPO points and whether they could be added to the Duke Belt Line project. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that points cannot be donated from an RPO to a division, only from RPOs to MPOs and vice versa.

This item was for informational purposes only and no action was required by the TC.

7. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Update

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Julie Bollinger, NCDOT

Andy Henry reviewed the schedule for releasing the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and noted that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) internal review is not yet complete. Andy Henry referred to a handout in order to highlight changes that have been made to the draft CTP that went to NCDOT for their internal review. Andy Henry stated that three things would be changed in order to present the CTP to the MPO Board in November, 1) online maps, 2) online tables, and 3) some of the problem statements. Andy Henry stated that ArcGIS online maps would also be released on the MPO's webpage. Andy Henry asked the TC if he should bring these changes and final maps back to the subcommittee or whether he should share them with the TC for broader feedback.

Andy Henry and Chair David Bonk discussed whether identifying a list of issues and key projects might be useful for the MPO Board. Chair David Bonk suggested that it might be wise to get the TC subcommittee together in order to gain a better understanding of the issues at hand. Andy Henry urged TC members to send him their questions in the meantime.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann commented on the overwhelming level of information available, especially for Durham. Andy Henry stated that he would highlight the projects of potential interest to the MPO Board.

John Hodges-Copple commented that it is important to identify what is being adopted and what would be in the reports that are not officially adopted. Andy Henry clarified that only the maps would be adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation, but that tables providing details about various projects

would be presented to that Board, as well. John Hodges-Copple suggested highlighting areas where NCDOT and the MPO disagree in tables.

Chair David Bonk, Andy Henry, and Felix Nwoko weighed the benefits and disadvantages of delaying the release of the CTP. Felix Nwoko pointed out that a delay could highlight inconsistencies in methodologies between the CTP and the MTP. Cara Coppola stated that Chatham County would prefer to move forward with this process. Scott Whiteman stated that he would be comfortable moving forward in another month or so, as additional time to digest the information could be useful.

Andy Henry concluded that a delay of a month might be useful and that he would set up a subcommittee meeting. Andy Henry stated that he would make the changes discussed by the TC and that he would highlight issues of importance to the MPO Board.

This item was for informational purposes only and no action was required by the TC.

8. FFY 2018-2019 CMAQ Funding

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Meg Scully stated that there is a call for projects using target funding amounts for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 (FFY 18) and Federal Fiscal Year 2019 (FFY 19) for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) projects. Applications will be due to NCDOT in March 2017. Meg Scully stated that although target amounts will likely change, 2.3 million dollars will be used for FFY 18 and FFY 19 respectively. Applications are due to the MPO on December 16, 2016, so that they can be entered into the NCDOT CMAQ website along with emission reduction forms and the resolution from the MPO Board approving the projects. Those wishing to apply for funding should use the application that is currently on the NCDOT website and the process should not be too different from the last application cycle. Meg Scully asked TC members to email her if they wished to see applications from the last cycle. Meg Scully stated that individuals would be responsible for their own emissions calculations.

Chair David Bonk asked Meg Scully to review the schedule and Meg Scully reviewed the schedule. Meg Scully noted that she hoped that actual amounts for the two upcoming fiscal years would be available soon, but that target amounts from the past two years could be used if that is not the case. Meg Scully and Chair David Bonk discussed when the subcommittee should meet and the timeline for bringing their findings to the TC and the MPO Board.

Meg Scully stated that the goal was for applicants to apply for FFY 18 and FFY 19 at the same time, and to program all of the 4.5 million dollars.

Pierre Osei-Owusu asked for clarification on the issue of expansion versus replacement and emission factors and standards. Meg Scully stated that she has asked for guidance from NCDOT on exactly which program calculations or factors should be used and which ones are acceptable. Meg Scully noted that there was a staff member at NCDOT who is responsible for helping applicants understand and use the right formula. Meg Scully and Eddie Dancausse discussed changes in the model that is used for these calculations.

Eddie Dancausse urged applicants to ask questions, specifically about eligibility, as they complete the application process.

John Hodges-Copple confirmed that applicants were being encouraged to apply for two years of funding although only one year is required, and inquired about how funding for the upcoming two years compared to funding for FFY 2017. Meg Scully discussed adjustments that were made to FFY 16 and FFY 17, and noted that funding was comparable to what was received in previous years. Meg Scully cautioned that this could change as all NCDOT calculations are not yet complete.

John Hodges-Copple, Eddie Dancausse, and Meg Scully discussed whether the process for calculating the amount that is sub-allocated to the MPOs and RPOs has changed.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked whether these projects should be ready to obligate funds for FFY 18 and FFY 19, and Meg Scully responded that funds should be used in FFY 18 and FFY 19. Meg

162 Scully and Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether funds could be used for planning as well as
163 construction. Eddie Dancausse verified that planning must lead to construction. Vice Chair Ellen
164 Beckmann asked whether right of way is eligible for funding, and Eddie Dancausse noted that anything
165 that leads to completion of a project is eligible. John Hodges-Copple noted that emissions calculations
166 are based on the project.

167 Cara Coppola asked for and received clarification from Meg Scully and Eddie Dancausse about
168 what is included in the geographical boundary for projects.

169 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann, Eddie Dancausse, and Meg Scully discussed whether partial projects
170 could be funded. Eddie Dancausse noted that there is precedent for funding partial projects but that
171 new projects had a better chance of being funded.

172 Pierre Osei-Owusu, Meg Scully, and Eddie Dancausse discussed how the process can be
173 expedited and whether projects have to be flexed. Chair David Bonk pointed out that one impact of
174 flexing would be a state match for transit projects, but that a match would not be available for highway
175 projects. Meg Scully suggested that Pierre Osei-Owusu communicate relevant information to all parties
176 throughout the flexing process in order to expedite the process. Eddie Dancausse reiterated the
177 importance of asking questions throughout the process. Andy Henry asked that answers to all questions
178 be shared with the TC.

179 This item was for informational purposes only and no action was required by the TC.

180 **9. 2045 MTP -- Learning Scenario**

181 John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG

182 John Hodges-Copple drew attention to a handout and discussed the factors that have gone into
183 creating the learning scenario. John Hodges-Copple discussed differences between version 5 and version
184 6 of the Triangle Regional Model (TRM), particularly changes in employment categories. John Hodges-
185 Copple stated that the learning scenario would be run the following week. Communities may adjust
186 development based on information coming out of scenarios, and scenarios may have to be recreated.

187 Andy Henry and John Hodges-Copple discussed the elements of the learning scenario that the
188 TC should give feedback on and the timeframe for providing such feedback. Chair David Bonk asked
189 whether the learning scenario would be brought to the MPO Board in December, and John Hodges-
190 Copple clarified that the MPO Board would not be asked for recommendations on or to adopt the
191 learning scenario. John Hodges-Copple stated that the learning scenario would be used to explain things
192 at the joint MPO meeting at the end of November and that individual MPOs might want to bring the
193 learning scenario to their boards in November. John Hodges-Copple stated that a discussion of this item
194 should be added to the agenda for the joint MPO Board meeting at the end of November. Chair David
195 Bonk commented that the MPO Board will most likely want to discuss the learning scenario at length at
196 its December meeting and that it should be added to the agenda for that meeting, as well. Chair David
197 Bonk suggested that John Hodges-Copple also review the sequence of moving from the learning
198 scenario to the real scenario at the December MPO Board meeting.

199 John Hodges-Copple discussed how the fiscal constraint of the MTP would affect real scenarios.

200 Chair David Bonk asked Felix Nwoko for a brief description of the differences between versions 5
201 and 6 of the TRM. Felix Nwoko clarified that the MPO Board is supposed to approve use of the model
202 and that he intended to summarize the differences between the two models for the TC and the MPO
203 Board at the time of that approval. Felix Nwoko clarified that this information would be brought before
204 the TC in November 2016 and the MPO Board in December 2016.

205 Max Bushell and John Hodges-Copple discussed sharing the results of the learning scenario with
206 Orange County. Chair David Bonk and John Hodges-Copple discussed whether a subcommittee should
207 get together to discuss the results of the learning scenario. Chair David Bonk and John Hodges-Copple
208 discussed a timeline for looking at the results of the first scenario. John Hodges-Copple recommended
209 that the TC get in touch with him, Aspen Romeyn, or Ben Bearden with any questions about the learning
210 scenario.

211 This item was informational and no action was required by the TC.

212 **REPORTS:**

213 **15. Reports from the LPA Staff**

214 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

215 Dale McKeel stated that two groups would be speaking at the November TC meeting during the
216 public comment period. One group will speak about pedestrian access to Cedar Ridge High School, and
217 the other will request additional signage for bicycles on a section of Old Fayetteville Road/ Old NC 86.

218 In response to a question from Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann, Felix Nwoko stated that the joint
219 MPO meeting would take place at the Friday Center on November 30, 2016. Felix Nwoko promised to
220 send out an email with the specific time of the meeting the following day, but noted it would likely be at
221 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. Bergen Watterson asked whether this meeting was for the TC or the MPO Board, and
222 Felix Nwoko responded that although it was for the MPO Board, everyone is invited.

223 **16. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

224 David Bonk, DCHC MPO TC Chair

225 Chair David Bonk stated the TC should put together a summary of recent bicycle count data in
226 order to respond to an inquiry that came up at the last MPO Board meeting.

227 **17. NCDOT Reports**

228 There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 5.

229 There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 7.

230 Jennifer Britt, NCDOT Division 8, stated that Darius Sturdivant has transitioned to Division 6, and
231 that his replacement has not been found.

232 Julie Bollinger, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, stated that ADT maps have been released
233 by the traffic survey group and is on the NCDOT website. Shapefiles will be released on Friday, October 28,
234 2016.

235 Julie Bollinger discussed the impact of the Reorganization Through Reduction (RTR) program on
236 her division. She noted that they have lost nine people and six vacancies through the voluntary RTR
237 program, and that a reorganization plan should be available by November 14, 2016.

238 Andy Henry and Julie Bollinger discussed the role that consultants might play in the future of the
239 division.

240 There was no additional report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

241 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

242 **18. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

243 **ADJOURNMENT:**

244 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
245 adjourned at 10:20 a.m.