

DCHC MPO  
Transportation Management Area (TMA)

# **Review of the DCHC MPO Transportation Planning Process**

**TMA Federal Certification Review**  
**“Closeout Summary Findings”**

**MPO Board Meeting**  
June 10, 2015

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## **Federal Review Team**

- Bill Marley, FHWA, N.C. Division: Lead
- George Hoops, FHWA, N.C. Division
- Donnie Brew, FHWA, N.C. Division
- Joe Geigle, FHWA, N.C. Division
- Eddie Dancausse, FHWA, N.C. Division
- Lynise DeVance, FHWA, N.C. Division
- Tajsha, LaShore, FTA Region IV, Atlanta

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## Staff Attendees/Participants

- Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair
- Felix Nwoko, Lead Planning Agency (LPA)
- David Bonk, Town of Chapel Hill/TC Vice Chair
- Lindsay Smart, LPA
- Meg Scully, LPA
- Dale McKeel, LPA
- Andrew Henry, LPA
- Kosok Chae, LPA
- Durmus Cesur, LPA
- Julie Bollinger, NCDOT-TPB

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## Staff Attendees/Participants

- Ellen Beckmann, City of Durham
- Tom Altieri, Orange County
- Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT - Division 8
- Ed Lewis, NCDOT - Division 7
- Mike Stanley, NCDOT – STIP Programming

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## Public Comment / MPO Board One-on-One

- No Public Comment
- Three MPO Board Members

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## Purpose of Certification Review

- FHWA and FTA are required to jointly review the metropolitan transportation planning process for Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) at least every 4 years.
  - TMAs are MPOs with population of 200,000 or above.
- To ensure that the TMAs are following federal policies, regulations and procedures in developing the transportation planning process.
- Quadrennial oversight of the MPO.



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## Overview of the Certification Process

### The review consists of the following:

1. **Desk Review (Audit)** – a review of the planning documents and products of the DCHC MPO. 2 months to respond to over 100 written questions in > 20 areas.
2. **Site Visit (Review)** – including discussions with: MPO, NCDOT, transit operators, and the public/ MPO Board (May 21-22, 2015).
3. **Closeout /Wrap-up Presentation** – May 22, 2015.
4. **Final Report** – by FHWA/FTA summarizing review findings and certification action(s) - July 2015.

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## Major Objectives of the Certification Review and Site Visit

- Confirm the MPO's 3-C (continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive) process.
- Ensure that the transportation planning process is multi-modal.
- Ensure that the requirements and objectives of applicable federal laws are met.
- Ensure that MPO work program advances federal emphasis areas and priorities.
- Review of issues raised during the previous Federal Certification Review.

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## > 20 Areas Covered in the Review

- Organizational Structure of the MPO
- Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary
- Agreements and Contracts
- Unified Planning Work Program – UPWP
- Transportation Planning Process
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – MTP
- Financial Planning/Grant Admin & Oversight
- Air Quality Planning and Conformity
- TIP & Project Selection
- Public Involvement
- **Visualization Techniques**

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## Areas Covered – cont'd

- Self – Certification
- Annual List of Obligations/Authorizations
- Environmental Planning/Mitigation
- Consultation and Coordination (regional/State)
- Congestion Management Systems
- Management and Operations/System Preservation
- **Transportation Safety Planning**
- **Security in Transportation Planning**
- **Freight Planning**
- **Land-use and Livability**
- Title VI/EJ/LEP

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## Noteworthy Practices

- Noteworthy practices in majority of the aforementioned planning areas/products.
- Certification Review Site Visit Preparation
- Multi-Modal and Balanced Transportation
- Quantity and Quality of Work Products

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## Preliminary Findings

- No Corrective Actions - 1st for the DCHC MPO and very rare nationwide.
  - *Our goal after the 2011 Review was to have ZERO Corrective Actions in 2015 and we achieved that goal.*

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## Findings - Commendations

- **Environmental Justice (EJ) Report.**
- **Interactive Website & funding database (project tracking)– “very impressive”.**
- **Great relationship and collaboration between the MPO and transit operators.**
- **Increased cooperation with NCDOT (improved from last certification).**
- **Statewide and inter-agency coordination on air quality process.**

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## Findings - Recommendations

- **Freight Advisory Committee –involve freight community and providers in the MPO planning process.**
- **Provide linkage between freight and economic development. National attention on freight.**
- **Focus on efficient movement of people and freight - Interstate highways are important for the movement of people and goods - “don’t forget highways”.**
  - *Efforts are already underway to incorporate freight in the MPO planning process.*
  - *These recommendations will be accomplished through the Freight Plan.*

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## More Recommendations

- Engage Environmental Justice (EJ) community leaders.
  - Consider mapping & evaluating specific minority races individually in future EJ reports.
  - Consider including two additional EJ analyses (performance targets and Benefits/burdens by project types).
  - Make Title VI more conspicuous.
- *These recommendations were identified during the development of the EJ plan. They will be included in the next EJ update.*

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## More Recommendations

- MPO & NCDOT work to resolve project selection issues with STI process.
  - Develop an enhanced methodology for measuring the effectiveness of the MPO public involvement.
  - Improve on-going coordination in development of environmental documents.
- *Staff is already working on the implementation of these recommendations.*

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## Overall Review Findings

Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the DCHCMPO TMA substantially meets the Federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. **This certification will remain in effect until May 2019.**

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## In Summary

- The **DCHC MPO** staff, TC members, and the Board were commended for their commitment in working together to ensure that the products of the transportation planning process are serving the citizens of the urbanized area.
- Overall, it was a successful review.



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## Questions/Comments

**Thank You**



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