

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**January 14, 2015**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on January 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Committee Room on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following attended:

**Diane Catotti	City of Durham (MPO Board Vice-Chair)
*Ed Harrison (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
**Ellen Reckhow	Durham County
**Mark Kleinschmidt	Town of Chapel Hill (MPO Board Chair)
**Damon Seils	Town of Carrboro
*Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
**Barry Jacobs	Orange County
**Steve Schewel	City of Durham
Mark Ahrendsen	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
David Bonk	Town of Chapel Hill
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Joey Hopkins	NCDOT, Division 5
Bret Martin	Orange County
Patrick McDonough	Triangle Transit
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	Durham City/County Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace	Durham County/Access
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
John Hodges-Copple	TJCOG
Katharine Eggleston	Triangle Transit
Jeff DeLuca	Town of Chapel Hill
Lynn Wilson	Mark Jacobson Toyota
Howard Williams	Brook Pierce
Mark Jacobson	Mark Jacobson Toyota
Natalie Murdoch	Triangle Transit
Ray Gronberg	The Herald-Sun
Jim Wise	The News & Observer
Hee Soo Russell	TC's of Durham
T. C. Anderson	TC's of Durham
Charlie Steel	Sport Durst Auto

\*\*Voting Member

\*Alternate or Non-Voting Member

Mark Kleinschmidt, MPO Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. and reminded the

Board members to sign-in. The Roll Call was conducted by Mark Kleinschmidt, MPO Board Chair.

Steve Schewel was excused at 11:45 a.m.

### **Ethics Reminder**

Mark Kleinschmidt read the Ethics Reminder for Board members and asked Board members if there are any known conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the Board and requested that if there were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no conflicts identified.

Diane Catotti stated there were no conflicts. Ms. Catotti encouraged Board members per Lindsay Smart to file and complete the State Ethics form online to comply with the State Ethics Commission requirements. Each member needs to file individually; however, if nothing has changed, the filing process takes less than five minutes.

Mark Kleinschmidt reminded everyone about the Ethics Compliance and filing State Ethics forms as soon as possible online. The State Ethics form needs to be completed by April 15, 2015.

### **Adjustments to the Agenda:**

Mark Kleinschmidt stated agenda item #7 will be bypassed. Mark Kleinschmidt stated Stantec deferred the presentation on US 15-501 Corridor Study Traffic Analysis Report.

Mark Ahrendsen stated additional items will be distributed and will be discussed during the appropriate agenda item.

### **Public Comments**

Russell Reynolds, a citizen and property owner of Triangle Cycle which is located on US 15-501, stated the motorcycle dealership has been in business for 35 years. His business, Triangle Cycle, has supported the City of Durham and its community. Mr. Reynolds expressed his concerns that the rail project passes in front of the dealership building and would remove half of the parking lot. In addition, the value of his building will be loss. Mr. Reynolds placed his business expansions and renovations on hold because of the rail project. Mr. Reynolds supported an alternate route thru the woods behind the property which would provide security, the possibility of bike and running routes, clean up the area, and benefit all businesses.

Mark Jacobson, a citizen and owner of Mark Jacobson Toyota, has served the City of Durham for 16 years, employed 220 people and supported the City of Durham's community. Mr. Jacobson explained he has purchased a new car center on US 15-501 and the rail project would greatly impact it. Mr. Jacobson informed the Board the rail alignment crosses the front of his building. Mr. Jacobson expressed his thanks to the Board and once more informed them it would impact his business.

T. C. Anderson, a citizen and owner of TC's of Durham since 2003, stated his car wash establishment has been a family business, as well as a stepping stone for 20 plus others seeking employment. Mr. Anderson explained he provided revenue to the City of Durham and supported the community. Mr. Anderson commented there is a third party working with him; the rail project will impact them and all three businesses.

Hee-Soo Russell, a citizen, communicated the three companies that Mr. Anderson and she represented were "small but might." Hee-Soo Russell referred these companies as mom and pop businesses that supported and committed to the community. Ms. Russell remarked the rail project would vastly impact not only the businesses, but the livelihood of the employees. Ms. Russell reiterated that coming thru their property and during the construction period will vastly impact both the business

and community. She stated that she fully supported it; this will help the entire area to grow economically.

Charlie Steel, a citizen and owner of Sport Durst Auto, stated the rail project will cause the road surface to be raised up and block their businesses from US 15-501. Charlie Steel stated relocating Sport Durst will be a huge cost. He expressed 182 employees' livelihood depend upon the car dealership. He explained a year ago around \$2 million was spent on the car dealership bring it up to manufacture requirements. He stated they pay property taxes, sales and use taxes. Also, Mr. Steel stated there are no good alternatives. However, there are other alternatives as seen in the last months. Mr. Steel urged the Board to consider and listen to all alternatives that were stated in the last few meetings before interrupting their business. He asked the Board to review the entire alternatives and listen to the different viewpoints. Charlie Steel remarked it means a lot to our family and business.

#### **Directives to Staff (Attachment 5)**

The Directives to Staff are attached for review.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **December 10, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes (Attachment 6)**

Steve Schewel stated that he should be added as a voting member. Ed Harrison asked to be added in as an attendant.

A motion was made by Diane Catotti and second by Ellen Reckhow to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **7. US 15-501 Corridor Study Traffic Analysis Report**

Mark Kleinschmidt stated item #7 has been tabled and moved on to item #8.

#### **8. Update on the Status of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project (DO LRT) (Attachment 8, 8A)**

117 Patrick McDonough provided an update on the Status of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit  
118 Project (DO LRT), along with attachments. Patrick McDonough referred to attachment 8 and 8A and  
119 explained the maps in detail. Patrick McDonough stated that no action is required by MPO Board today,  
120 the presentation is for educational information and to obtain questions/feedback.

121 Ellen Reckhow stated annual reports were on the website and DCHC MPO website for Orange  
122 County and Durham County on the Bus Rail Investment Plan revenue expenditure progress. Damon Seils  
123 stated the Bus Improvement handout would be helpful on the MPO website. Patrick McDonough  
124 confirmed with Brian Rhodes the Bus Improvement handout was on MPO website.

125 Ellen Reckhow asked if there had been discussion on getting an east/west station closer to the  
126 academic campus. Patrick McDonough identified the LaSalle Street station location.

127 Ed Harrison stated the map for New Hope Creek alignment would be helpful if it showed  
128 Southwest Durham Drive, future major thoroughfare.

129 Ellen Reckhow asked if the map alignment could show major shopping centers and other station  
130 locations for the public to identify places.

131 Patrick McDonough stated he would discuss it with the mapping team about including some  
132 landmarks.

133 Diane Catotti asked about the distance between Patterson Place and Martin Luther King Parkway.

134 Patrick McDonough estimated the distance is 1.5 miles between both sites.

135 Diane Catotti asked questions regarding the US 15-501 alignment base of Garrett Road where  
136 apartments, shopping centers and car businesses are located. She asked about the consideration of an  
137 additional rail station for accessibility.

138 Patrick McDonough stated engineering would need to review the questions due to the  
139 complexity of the work, but the option is not ruled out. It would be an elevated station and more

140 complicated. Patrick McDonough stated additional work will be needed to determine if it would be  
141 greater or less in some way or offer benefits in addition to impact.

142 Diane Catotti expressed her concerns about the rail alignment north/south of Garrett Road  
143 regarding the people, houses, and neighborhood access.

144 Patrick McDonough commented Garrett Road is the one north/south if the City was interested in  
145 it, they would look at the two alignments to see if it was feasible.

146 Ed Harrison expressed there is a current re-zoning application for the Patterson Place site and it  
147 adds complications. Diane Catotti stated the re-zoning designated areas are residential and suburban to  
148 commercial to accommodate car dealership and has not been fully processed.

149 Diane Catotti expressed concerns about what flexibility exists to slightly move the Alston Avenue  
150 Rail Operation and Maintenance Facility (ROMF) site. Diane Catotti stated PAC 1 is concerned about job  
151 displacement related to Alston Avenue ROMF.

152 Ellen Reckhow informed the Board that Red Hat and Board Members of the Conservation Fund  
153 are concerned about the Alston Avenue ROMF site and weighing against it due to development growth  
154 and job displacement.

155 Patrick McDonough pointed out sites were selected in the order of residents and churches first  
156 and businesses next. He stated people see impacts, not benefits, of ROMF.

157 Patrick McDonough stated more than 20 sites were reviewed before selecting the final sites. Mr.  
158 McDonough explained how Leigh Village and Farrington sites acreage ranges met the based need for  
159 ROMF sites.

160 Mark Kleinschmidt was concerned about the Alston Avenue impacts, existing metrics regarding  
161 impact and ROMF site.

162 Patrick McDonough stated that the environmental study for the LRT will assess impacts to  
163 homes, churches and businesses, and will also look at ways to avoid taking land in low-income and

minority communities. Mr. McDonough identified the following burdens related to ROMF sites: noise – wheel squeaking between 1:00 a.m. until 5:00 a.m., night time lighting creates glow, noise and vibrations related to LRT, historic properties, natural (creeks and streams), cultural resources and cost. All ROMF sites will be near thoroughfares. Patrick McDonough stated ROMF sites are designed not to look attractive. Patrick McDonough stated he had not seen a ROMF. Mark Kleinschmidt expressed his appreciation to the public.

Diane Catotti asked about ROMF's safety. Patrick McDonough stated ROMF sites are designed for safety with fences, key access, and security card access for employees.

Diane asked about the timeline regarding decision making for ROMF. Steve Schewel asked will Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) identify a preferred site. Patrick McDonough responded yes, during NEPA and it will be presented to all Boards for agreement. Patrick McDonough stated local government participation will be in March/April 2015. Patrick McDonough stated the Board will have another chance to review it.

Chairman Kleinschmidt opened the public hearing by asking the public to come forward to speak to this item. Mark Kleinschmidt and Patrick McDonough expressed their appreciation to the public attendants.

Mr. Reynolds requested information on meetings; Patrick McDonough, Triangle Transit, provided the timeline for further meeting interests.

Damon Seils passed comments on rail project to the Board members from the Town of Carrboro Board meeting, last night, to the staff for further review.

With no further comments from the public, Mark Kleinschmidt closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Damon Seils and seconded by Diane Catotti to receive the TTA report on Update on Status of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project (DO LRT). The motion carried unanimously.

**9. Congestion Management Process (CMP) – System Status Report 2014 (Attachment 9, 9A)**

Andy Henry briefed the Board members on the Congestion Management Process (CMP) – System Status Report 2014, along with updated attachments. He stated that the MPO staff is planning a workshop to explain the Congestion Management Plan and Mobility Report Card data in greater detail. Mr. Henry extended the Board an invitation to the workshop. He stated that the action today is to accept the draft system status report for the CMP and release it for public review and comments.

A motion was made by Diane Catotti and seconded by Ellen Reckhow to release the CMP System Status report for a 21-day public review and comment period. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. Draft CTP Deficiency Analysis (Attachment 10, 10A)**

Andy Henry presented an overview on draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Deficiency Analysis, along with attachments. Andy Henry stated that the action today is to release the CTP Deficiency Analysis report for public comment, which will be through March 2, 2015.

Lydia Lavelle indicated that Linwood was misspelled in the document.

A motion was made by Diane Catotti and seconded by Damon Seils to receive the presentation and release the Deficiency Analysis for public comments. The motion carried unanimously.

**11. Public Hearing and Approval of Amendment #22 to FY2012-2018 TIP (Attachment 11, 11A)**

Lindsay Smart provided introduced Amendment #22 to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), along with updated handouts. Lindsay Smart stated the action for today is a public hearing and approval of the Amendment #22 to FY2012-2018 TIP.

Mark Kleinschmidt opened the public hearing and asked if there were any public comments. A motion was made by Damon Seils and seconded by Diane Catotti to close public hearing and approve amendment #22. The motion carried unanimously.

Mark Kleinschmidt stated he was very appreciative of this amendment.



**12. Draft FY2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Attachment 12)**

Meg Scully provided an update on the FY2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), along with attachment. Meg Scully stated the action for today is to review the draft, review the schedule for development, and release the draft for public comment.

Meg Scully stated funding from previous year decreased: (1) spending less and (2) transit reduced.

Damon Seils asked why less spending and travel decreased. Ms. Scully explained why and provided several examples. Meg Scully stated the main focus was on local deferring to spend.

A motion was made by Diane Catotti and seconded by Ellen Reckhow to (1) to review, (2) to review schedule for development and (3) for release the draft FY2015-2016 UPWP for public comments. The motion carried unanimously.

**13. Presentation: Draft FY2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Attachment 13, 13A)**

Lindsay Smart provided a PowerPoint presentation on the draft FY2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), along with the attachments.

Lindsay Smart stated N.C. Department of Transportation released the draft 10-year State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on December 4, 2014. STIP's project programming is the first five years. The concluding five years of project programming is the development program of STIP; it is updated every two years.

Lindsay Smart explained the MPO's draft FY2016-2025 TIP. The NCDOT STIP is the basis for the MPO's TIP. The MPO's TIP is a program of projects located in the DCHC MPO area. There were the MPO's TIP projects prioritized through Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) process. There were also projects in the TIP that were identified by jurisdictions and the MPO that were prioritized and selected for inclusion in the TIP.

**REPORTS:**

**14. Report from the Board Chair - Mark Kleinschmidt, Board Chair**

There were no reports from the Board Chair.

**15. Report from the Technical Committee Chair - Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair**

There was no report from the Technical Committee Chair.

**16. Report from LPA Staff (Attachment 15) - Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko stated the new MPO website will be live on January 26, 2015.

**17. NCDOT Report (Attachment 17)**

Joey Hopkins, Division 5 Engineer, provided an update on the One-on-One meeting. The agenda will be for the meeting to start with Division 8, followed by Division 7, and then Division 5. Mr. Hopkins stated the meeting will be held on February 11, 2015 at the Committee Room.

Diane Catotti asked for clarification about who is going and who is expected to attend. Mark Ahrendsen stated all Board members are invited to the meeting.

Joey Hopkins informed the Board that the East End Connector bid was awarded. He stated the East End Connector project is scheduled to start in February 2015. Mr. Hopkins stated Alston Avenue project was delayed due to design, moved to July 2015.

Pat Wilson, Division 7, notified the Board about upcoming public meetings in Orange County, Hillsborough and Greensboro.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**18. Recent News Articles and Updates (Attachment 18)**

The recent news articles and updates are attached for review.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11 at 9 a.m. in the Durham City Hall Committee Room.