

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

February 13, 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee held a meeting on February 13, 2024, 1:30 p.m. at Central Pines Regional Council in the Long Leaf Conference Room and through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Nishith Trivedi (Member-Chair)	Orange County
Ellen Beckman (Member-Vice Chair)	Durham County
Darlene Weaver (Member)*	Orange County
Eric Vitale (Member)	City of Durham
Tom Devlin (Member)	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham
Aaron Cain (Member)	Durham County
Ryan Eldridge (Member)	Durham County
Thanh Schado (Member)	Chatham County
Nathan Ziegler (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Ben Berolzheimer (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Caroline Dwyer (Member)	Chapel Hill Transit
Matt Efird (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Meg Scully (Alternate)*	GoTriangle
Brandon Jones (Member)	NCDOT Division 5
Chad Reimakoski (Member)	NCDOT Division 7
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
Landon Coley (Alternate)	University of North Carolina
Joe Geigle (Non-voting Member)	Federal Highway Administration
Matt Day (Member)	Central Pines Regional Council
Jenna Kolling	Central Pines Regional Council
Patricia McGuire (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Josh Mayo (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Matt Cecil (Alternate)*	Town of Chapel Hill
Bill Judge*	City of Durham
Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
Amin Hezaveh	NCDOT Division 5
Nishant Shah*	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar*	NCDOT Division 8
Hart Evans	NCDOT IMD
Nick Morrison *	NCDOT IMD

47	Paul Black*	GoTriangle
48	Chris Lukasina*	CAMPO
49	Marie Parker*	Town of Carrboro (Interim Manager)
50	Heidi Perov Perry*	Bike Walk NC
51	Jordon Powell*	VHB
52		
53	Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
54	Colleen McGue	DCHC MPO
55	David Miller	DCHC MPO
56	Kelly Richard	DCHC MPO
57	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
58	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
59	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
60	Jean Debnam	DCHC MPO
61	KC Chae*	DCHC MPO

62 Quorum Count: 17 of 31 Voting Members
 63 *Attended remotely

64 **1. Roll Call**

65 Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The roll call was completed
 66 using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom participant list for remote attendees.

68 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

69 Chair Nish Trivedi asked for any adjustments to the agenda. MPO staff said that
 70 supporting documentation for Item 5: FY2024 UPWP Administrative Modification #1 MEMO will
 71 be shared via email to TC members following the meeting.

72 **3. Public Comments**

73 Chair Nish Trivedi asked for public comments. There were none.

74 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

75 **4. Approval of the January 9, 2024, Technical Committee Minutes** 76 **Jean Debnam, MPO Staff**

78 **5. FY2024 UPWP Administrative Modification #1 MEMO**

79 **David Miller, MPO Staff**

80 **Madeline Galliano, MPO Staff**

81 Eric Vitale made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded
 82 by Aaron Cain. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. SPOT Local Input Points Methodology Adoption

Filmon Fishastion, MPO Staff

Filmon Fishastion explained the next step in the SPOT 7.0 process which was to adopt a Methodology for Identifying and Ranking New Transportation Improvement Program Project Requests. Mr. Fishastion stated the DCHC MPO will use this Methodology to assign Local Input Points to projects submitted during the current SPOT cycle. This Methodology must be approved by the MPO Board and an NCDOT Review Committee by April 1, 2024.

The DCHC MPO released the draft Local Input Points Methodology for public comment on January 2. The public comment period is open until February 13 and will be followed by a public hearing at the February 27th Board Meeting. Filmon presented a copy of the draft methodology which shows the comments received thus far and the SPOT P7 schedule.

Eric Vitale made a motion to adopt the draft Methodology. Caroline seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. FY2025 Call for Projects Recommendation & Release for Public Comment

Filmon Fishastion, MPO Staff

Filmon Fishastion stated there has been an amendment to the FY2025 Call for Projects since the agenda went out. Ellen Beckmann contacted NCDOT, and they were amendable to lowering the DCHC MPO funding amount for the Durham-Roxboro Rail Trail. The proposed funding amount is now \$7.5 million so with that, there are additional funds to go towards the projects. Mr. Fishastion went over the scenarios and changes of the projects. Mr. Fishastion discussed the 3 scenarios. In Scenario 1, more projects were added which were the Davis Drive Path and the Bolin Creek Greenway Phase 2., which were the next highest scoring projects and with available funding. Electric buses were also added. Ellen Beckmann made note that there were four projects added. Bergen Watterson noted that the original scenario had the Rail Trail at \$8.1 million and now it's \$7.5 million how does that translate to four new projects? Filmon Fishastion explained by reducing the Rail Trail, the next highest scoring project is the Davis Drive project. Mr. Fishastion said he could send out a spreadsheet showing how the figures were updated. Doug

119 explained that because this is a multi-year program, there is an optimization process for projects
120 that can be filled into each year, which added up to a higher utilization of federal funds. Filmon also
121 discussed Scenario 2 and Scenario 3.

122
123 Ellen Beckmann made a motion to release the proposed projects to be funded through the
124 FY25 Call for Projects for a 21-day period. Thanh Schado seconded the motion with the caveat
125 that we check the totals. Caroline Dwyer and Bergen Watterson opposed the motion. After
126 discussion, MPO staff agreed to do an additional quality control review on the draft scenarios, as
127 well as set up an additional meeting to discuss the Call for Projects and Scenarios before the Board
128 meeting so that the project submitters and TC have an additional opportunity to review and discuss.

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130 **8. Destination 2055 Goals (20 minutes)**

131 **Kelly Richard, MPO Staff**

132 **Andy Henry, MPO Staff**

133 **Colleen McGue, MPO Staff**

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135 Kelly Richard noted that the memo attached to the agenda item was updated since it
136 was distributed, but the differences would be covered in the presentation. At this meeting Kelly
137 strictly discussed the goals for approval; the DCHC MPO will address the comment analysis at a
138 future meeting. Mrs. Richard shared the Destination 2055 website and presented the eight
139 goals. Mrs. Richard said that DCHC MPO staff recommends using the same goals listed in the
140 survey. Mrs. Richard stated they were limited in attending community events because of the
141 Holidays in late 2023 and for future efforts more paper surveys would be handed out. A
142 Nextdoor account has been created since this survey and a lot of feedback is expected to be
143 generated using this platform for future engagement on this plan.

144 Kelly Richard said the Joint Board wanted to know how the DCHC engagement process
145 was compared to that of other MPO's. Mrs. Richard researched Charlotte's engagement
146 process and found Charlotte received only 340 responses for their initial engagement and it did
147 not show a demographic breakdown compared to DCHC MPO. Based on the feedback from
148 the surveys, and the averages of the goals (65 or higher) it made sense to keep the goals as
149 they are and to keep the language as close to CAMPO's goals as possible.

150 Patricia Mcquire asked regarding the communities of concern, that if the communities
151 were weighted in terms of understanding the goals, was there a possibility the survey would
152 receive a different result. She also asked if, by assessing the survey, did DCHC think
153 something was missing. Mrs. Richard responded it was found that no additional goals were
154 needed. Mrs. Richard also responded regarding weighing the community's responses, some

responses from demographics were relatively small, but that was something DCHC would like to look at with more on the objective side. Doug Plachcinski asked Eric Vitale about the City of Durham's experience engaging with underserved communities. Eric Vitale responded he would get back with an answer.

Ellen Beckmann made a motion to approve the goals for use in Destination 2055. Eric Vitale seconded the motion. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

9. FY2024-33 TIP Amendment #2 Call for Amendments **Filmon Fishastion, MPO Staff**

Filmon Fishastion reminded the TC that the deadline to submit amendment request is February 23, 2024. The board is utilizing the updated memo and within the memo is the updated Technical Committee and Board Meeting schedules.

10. SPOT 7.0 Project Update **Colleen McGue, MPO Staff**

Colleen McGue gave an update on the Highway list for SPOT.7.0. She stated DCHC was at the data reviewing stage on the schedule which has been happening since November 2023 and will continue until April 2024. Many emails have been received from the SPOT office. Mrs. McGue gave an update on the Highway List. Smartsheet review requests were received from the consultant team working on the travel time savings analysis. Two projects have been removed from the project list; H230770, and H230683 was a duplicate on the list. Colleen gave a combined review of the Bicycle Pedestrian and Rail list. The Transit list did not have any updates.

Eric Vitale asked why the rail division gave us different information regarding submitting the Durham rail crossing projects as bike ped projects now. Colleen McGue explained that DCHC was not told to submit the projects as Rail but because the Bicycle Pedestrian list was so large, we decided to submit them as Rail since they had been submitted as Rail projects in the past.

11. Triangle Transportation Choices FY23 Annual Impact Report **Jenna Kolling, Central Pines Regional Council** **David Miller, MPO Staff**

Jenna Kolling gave the background of the Triangle Transportation Choices FY23 program and stated it promotes Transportation Demand Management (TDM) initiatives across the Triangle region, encouraging residents and workers to adopt alternative transportation modes such as carpooling, vanpooling, transit, biking, walking, teleworking, flexible work hours, and compressed workweeks. This initiative, jointly funded by DCHC MPO, Capital Area MPO, and the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division, has been instrumental in promoting more efficient utilization of existing transportation infrastructure since its inception in 2007. Jenna Kolling went over a diagram that shows how the funding flows through Central Pines Regional Council who serves as the administrator of the program and sends the funds off to the local regional service providers.

Throughout the fiscal year, the program successfully averted six million single-occupancy vehicle trips which helped eliminate over 87 million commute miles. A new addition to this year's annual impact report is the presentation of the program's cost effectiveness and societal benefits, including considerations for global climate change mitigation, deferral of new road construction, and the health benefits associated with biking and walking, as well as reductions in air and noise pollution, fuel consumption, traffic congestion, and vehicle crashes. The cumulative societal benefits of the TDM services provided by the Triangle Transportation Choices Program in FY23 are estimated at \$34 million.

Jenna Kolling shared that the program is seeking to expand micro-transit solutions and offering regional educational solutions.

12. Status Report on Locally Administered Projects
Colleen McGue, MPO Staff

Doug Plachcinski moved the Status Report for Locally Administered Project to the March Technical Committee meeting to allow members to provide more information. Ellen Beckmann asked if they should review and send in changes to which Doug commented yes by February 28.

13. Staff Working Group Presentation of Draft Durham and Orange 2025 Transit Work Programs
Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transportation Director
Nish Trivedi, Orange County Transportation Services Director

Ellen Beckmann reported that the Durham County Work Program was released for public comment on January 31, 2024. Doug Plachcinski asked if the Durham County Board received a copy of the draft and if there was any feedback. Ellen Beckmann said most of the comments were for information.

Doug Plachcinski announced that DCHC MPO has an agreement with Catalyst Design to begin a scoping process to look at regional connections and bus speed reliability.

14. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
Kelly Richard, MPO Staff

Kelly Richard gave the highlights of the Coordinated Plan stating the plan must be updated every five years and that projects must be in the plan to qualify for Section 5310 funds, which are used for enhanced mobility for those with disabilities and the elderly. The DCHC MPO must ensure they have participation from those groups, our representatives and human services providers. The City of Durham is the designated recipient of section 5310 federal funding. Mrs. Richard listed the projects' major areas for improvement and gave the projects that were funded for the past several cycles.

Kelly Richard said the Coordinated Plan was last adopted in 2019 and needs to be updated. She presented a 2024 schedule plan update which would conclude with adoption in June before our July break.

Nish Trivedi thanked Kelly for including the Orange County Department of Aging. Doug Plachcinski stated we should also inform the Central Pines agencies on aging groups.

15. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update - Mitigation Strategy Survey & Corridor Ranking
Yanping Zhang, MPO Staff

Yanping gave the overview of the CMP process and gave the updates on the mitigation strategy toolbox and the results of the strategies and corridor ranking.

16. US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study
Nishith Trivedi, Orange County Transportation Services Director
Lauren Tribbett, VHB Project Development Lean

Chair Nish Trivedi reported there was no information for the US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study update.

REPORT FROM STAFF:

270 **17. Report from MPO Staff**

271 **Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**

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273 Doug Plachcinski reported that the DCHC MPO has received proposals for a couple of
274 initiatives that are on the planning work program including the Durham City County Bike Ped Plan
275 and the Safe Streets for All Action Plan. The MPO has started scoping a process for the Bus
276 Speed Reliability Study. Mr. Plachcinski stated we are also working through procurement on the
277 participation plan and doing a rebranding review. Also, regarding the Triangle Regional Model
278 question about equity and how we apply it within the regional travel demand model, Mr. Plachcinski
279 explained in the current iteration of the Model G2 developed some reporting tools that target the low
280 income and elderly and zero auto households and some of the measures that those tools report on
281 include transit and walk accessibility, jobs within 30 minutes per mode, etc. There are various
282 opportunities to evaluate access for underrepresented communities.

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284 **18. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

285 **Nish Trivedi, TC Chair**

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287 Chair Nish Trivedi reported the committee just received the NCDOT request for the I-85
288 widening. Chair Trivedi expressed gratitude to the core team members who worked on Orange
289 County's Transportation Multimodal plan and the Short-Range Transit Plan.

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292 **19. NCDOT Reports**

293 **Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

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295 Not present. No report

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297 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson, Tracy Parrott), Division 5 - NCDOT**

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299 Brandon Jones reported that there would be major closures this weekend on the Alston Ave.
300 project to shift traffic from existing lanes to future southbound lanes. The shift will begin at 9:00
301 p.m. on Friday and end Monday at 6:00 a.m.

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303 **Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski), Division 7 – NCDOT**

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305 Chad Reimakoski reported that the contractor is currently working in the median on I-3604
306 on I-40 and is also installing drainage pipe structures. Chad Reimakoski also shared that Division 7
307 is installing a concrete batch plant on I 40 and 68.

308
309 **Reuben Blakley (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 – NCDOT**

310
311 No additional report.

313 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT**

314
315 No additional report.

316
317 **John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

318
319 No additional report.

320
321 **Nick Morrison- Integrated Mobility Division -NCDOT**

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323 Nick Morrison reported that the Multimodal plans grant is open.

324 **20. Recent News Articles and Updates**

325 Chair Nish Trivedi referenced the recent news articles and updates attached to the
326 agenda packet.

327
328 **ADJOURNMENT:**

329 There being no further business before the Technical Committee, the meeting was
330 adjourned at 3:45 p.m.