

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

January 25, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on January 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the second floor Committee Room at Durham City Hall, as well as through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Ellen Beckmann (Chair)	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi (Vice Chair)	Orange County
Tom Devlin (Member)	City of Durham
Miles Spann (Member)	City of Durham
Eric Vitale (Member)	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham
Aaron Cain (Member)	Durham County
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County
Tina Moon (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Josh Mayo (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Carolina Dwyer (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Brandon Dawson (Member)	Chatham County
Jay Heikes (Member)	GoTriangle
Brandon Jones (Member)	NCDOT Division 5
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
Travis Crayton (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Matt Day (Member)	TJCOG
Joe Geigle (Non-voting Member)*	FHWA
Kurt Stolka (Member)*	The University of North Carolina
Chassam Anderson (Alternate)*	The University of North Carolina
Erin Convery (Alternate)*	City of Durham
Matt Cecil (Alternate)*	Town of Chapel Hill
Stephen Robinson (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 7
David Keilson (Alternate)*	NCDOT Division 5
Bryan Kluchar (Alternate)*	NCDOT Division 8
Margaret Hauth*	Town of Hillsborough
Sean Egan*	City of Durham
Bill Judge*	City of Durham
Evian Patterson*	City of Durham
James Carter*	GoTriangle
Tracy Parrott*	NCDOT Division 5
Daryl Vreeland	NCDOT
Heather Hildebrandt	NCDOT
Aidil Ortiz*	Aidilisms

44	Patrick Livingston*	STV
45	Trent Moody*	STV
46	Nicole Bennet*	C Robinson Associates
47	Nick Morrison*	NCDOT IMD
48	Wannetta Mallette*	Burlington-Graham MPO

49	Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
50	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
51	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
52	Dale McKeel*	DCHC MPO
53	Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	DCHC MPO
54	Kelly Fomenko	DCHC MPO
55	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
56	David Miller	DCHC MPO

57 Quorum count: 18 of 25 voting members
 58 *Attended remotely

59 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

60 **PRELIMINARIES:**

61 **1. Roll Call**

62 The roll call was completed using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom
 63 participant list for remote attendees. Tom Devlin mentioned that Miles Spann has been
 64 appointed as a City of Durham TC member, and Chair Ellen Beckmann mentioned that Aaron
 65 Cain has been appointed as a Durham County TC member.

66 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

67 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

68 **3. Public Comments**

69 There were no public comments.

70 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

71 **4. Approval of the December 21, 2022 TC Meeting Minutes**
 72 **David Miller, LPA Staff**

73 **5. Orange County Request to Flex FHWA Funds (STPG/COVID Relief) to FTA (5307)**
 74 **Funds**
Nishith Trivedi, Orange County

75 **6. Biannual Status Report on Locally Administered Projects (LAP)**
 76 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

7. City of Durham Letter of Support Request for USDOT RAISE23 Grant Application
Evian Patterson, City of Durham

Tom Devlin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. FY2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program
David Miller, LPA Staff

David Miller presented the FY24 draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and highlighted the funding sources, programmed budget by MPO members, requested special studies, and the approval timeline.

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked how the MPO's transition to Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) as its new Lead Planning Agency might affect the UPWP budget, and Doug Plachcinski replied that once the MPO better understands the costs associated with the relocation and transition, and once the MPO's finances get separated from the City of Durham, a UPWP amendment to account for these costs will be presented to the TC and Board. Doug Plachcinski also stated that the local match provided by member jurisdictions to the MPO for its operations may change as more information about the transition takes place, but that measures to contain increases to members will be investigated.

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked about the match requirements for Durham County's requested special study, as it was anticipated that more than one funding source could be used. Daryl Vreeland replied that when a project is funded, NCDOT encourages one funding source associated with it to simplify the reimbursement process. Daryl Vreeland also clarified that eligible projects for inclusion in the UPWP include feasibility studies and master plans, but that design is not an eligible project. Tina Moon stated that the Town of Carrboro's special study pertaining to design will be removed from the FY24 draft UPWP.

Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend the Board release the draft FY2024 UPWP for public comment with the removal of the Town of Carrboro's special study pertaining to design. Tom Devlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. FY24 Call for Projects - Recommended Projects for Funding
Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Kelly Fomenko provided an overview of the FY24 call for projects process, the specific projects, and their scores. Kelly Fomenko stated that the MPO received 19 project submissions. The MPO requests the TC consider funding all local discretionary requests in full since funds are available to do so. The MPO also requests the TC consider funding the highest scoring projects with funds from the RFF pool as well as the TDM program as it is a policy priority. Kelly Fomenko stated that the City of Durham's funding recommendation is high because they have existing projects, which are a priority for the MPO.

Tina Moon stated that she wants to make sure that smaller jurisdictions receive proportionate funding as well and appreciated the information she received during the scoring process. Eric Vitale stated that the City of Durham is interested in what its existing projects the MPO views as a priority would have scored if they were not new, and Kelly Fomenko stated that she would follow up with this information.

Josh Mayo made a motion that the Board release the proposed projects to be funded through the FY24 Call for Projects for a 21-day public comment period. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap
Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff

Kelly Fomenko shared the FY2024-2033 STIP Swap process. Kelly Fomenko shared six projects being considered for swapping in (U-6118: NC 55, U-6120: NC 98, P-5734: Trinity RR, P-5736: Beryl RR, U-5304F: US 15-501, and U-5774F: NC 54), and three projects being considered for swapping out (U-6021: Fayetteville, U-5720B: US 70, and U-5774B: NC 54).

Kelly Fomenko stated that these projects within the swap process adhere to the requirement that the combined budget of projects being swapped into the STIP must be less than 110% of the cost of projects being swapped out.

Eric Vitale asked if swapping out 5774-F: NC 54 would impact Durham's ability to move forward with U-5774-B: NC 54, and Brandon Jones replied that there would be no impact since these projects are being funded separately. Brandon Jones added that there was a possibility to fund project U-6118 at the regional level instead of the division level and stated that the MPO Board would need to support this.

Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi made a motion that the MPO Board release the proposed Draft FY2024-2033 swap for a 21-day public comment period. Eric Vitale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. DCHC MPO Technical Committee Officer Election
Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski stated that the MPO received TC Officer nominations for Nishith Trivedi as Chair, and Ellen Beckmann as Vice Chair. Both Nishith Trivedi and Ellen Beckmann stated that they accept these nominations.

Bergen Watterson made to motion to accept Nishith Trivedi as TC Chair, and Ellen Beckmann as TC Vice Chair. Jay Heikes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

12. Carbon Reduction Program Overview
Heather Hildebrandt, NCDOT

Heather Hildebrandt provided an overview of NCDOT's Carbon Reduction Program. Heather Hildebrandt shared the greenhouse gas emissions statistics in North Carolina, the executive orders in NC (EO 80 from 2018 and EO 246 from 2022) that set the program's targets, an overview of North Carolina's suballocation and how funding is distributed to MPOs

and RPOs, the program's match requirements of 80% federal and 20% non-federal match, the project selection process, the submission process to NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, and coordination with the NCDOT STIP unit.

Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if a local resolution is needed to take part in this program, and Heather Hildebrandt replied that it is not unless it is added to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Heather Hildebrandt added that replacing an electric vehicle (EV) with another EV is not eligible because it doesn't increase air quality but replacing a diesel-powered vehicle with an EV is eligible because it does improve conditions.

13. US 70 East Corridor Study

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Anne Lenart-Redmond, STV

Andy Henry shared that the MPO is conducting a corridor study of the segment of US 70 from I-885 to the future Northern Durham Parkway, and that it is working with consultant STV to look at what impacts a boulevard would have along the corridor. Andy Henry stated that the study began in August 2022 and has included a review of current conditions, demographics and similar corridors; public engagement activities; and alternatives. Andy Henry stated that the presentation today entails the public engagement activities that will be presented by Aidil Ortiz from the study's subconsultant, Aidilisms.

Aidil Ortiz stated that she has been leading the public engagement efforts for this study. Aidil Ortiz shared that feedback was gathered from both online and emailed surveys, which was open from November 2022 to January 2023 and garnered 396 surveys. Aidil Ortiz said that she held both in-person and online community meetings and two online meetings. Aidil Ortiz shared the feedback received from these public engagement activities. Andy Henry said that the next steps in this process is for the Core Technical Team (CTT) to develop alternatives which will then be presented to the public for feedback, culminating in a final plan expected to be completed in Summer 2023.

Miles Spann asked how the study's public engagement efforts can garner an increase in diverse and minority individuals. Aidil Ortiz replied that in-person and online meetings were offered in the evening and weekends, and that in-person meetings were held along a bus line in Durham, and that signage was posted widely. Aidil Ortiz said that several neighborhoods along the corridor organize effectively to get their voice and over-representation across, but that more effort will be put in the next round of public engagement activities. Aidil Ortiz added that the holiday season and COVID might have hurt the public engagement process.

Brandon Jones asked how feedback was received from users of the corridor, and not just the residents who reside there. Aidil Ortiz replied that the online survey was advertised widely. Brandon Jones asked how alternatives will be developed, and Andy Henry replied that consideration will be given to what is in the MTP and the feedback received through public engagement process, which will guide the CTT in developing alternatives. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if property and business owners along corridor provided their feedback, and Aidil Ortiz replied that each business was called.

14. Report from Staff

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski shared that a MPO orientation has been scheduled for February 15, and that an invitation is forthcoming.

15. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that Interlocal Agreement (ILA) pertaining to the transit studies continues.

16. NCDOT Reports

Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT

Brandon Jones said that the Alston Avenue project has an anticipated completion date of the end of 2024.

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

207 Stephen Robinson said that the next phase of the New Hope Church Road Bridge
208 Replacement project includes paving and pavement markings. Stephen Robinson stated that
209 there was interest in moving forward project EL-4828B, but while it was discovered that this
210 project was deleted, steps are being taken to add the project back.

211 Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT

212 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

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

214 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

215 **John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

216 There was no additional report.

217 Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT

218 There was no additional report.

219 **Adjourn**

220 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ellen Beckmann
221 at 11:05 a.m.